Champion boxers visit Bridgend. (See page 12 for full details).

Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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www.bridgend-today.co.uk www.porthcawl-today.co.uk THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2009

PUDSEY THE BEAR GETS A GALLIC BOOST FROM A WELSH SCHOOL AS...

Students cycle from Maesteg to Paris for Children in Need

RIGHT: Sixth form members with Maesteg Sports Centre manager Nick Flay.

SIXTH formers at Maesteg Comprehensive School cycled all the way to Paris, and helped to raise a remarkable £1,771.20 for the Children in Need appeal.

The sponsored ride covered 753km and the students used equipment provided by Maesteg Sports Centre.

The idea for the cycle challenge came from sixth form student Jessica David, and cyclists took it in turns en route to the French capital.

Maesteg Sports Centre manager, Nick Flay, said:

"We are pleased to support community events such as this. Not only is it great that pupils are taking on such a physical challenge, but the money raised is going to a very worthwhile cause.

"The machines we have provided are perfect for this sort of test. Our new techno-gym and wellness system equipment is recognised as a world-wide leader in fitness equipment, with state of the art interactive features."

Pupils also held other events to raise funds, including a 'guess the jelly bean' competition, and a staff vs pupil netball and dodge ball tournament.

Mrs Griffiths, head of post-16 education at the school, said:

"It is fantastic to see our sixth form working together as a team, co-ordinating and organising events.

"They are not only raising a considerable amount of money for Children in Need, but are also providing entertainment and creating a buzz throughout the entire school.

"It is wonderful to see young people involved in the community giving their time freely and unconditionally in activities such as this."

Deputy head boy Rhys Jones, commented: "I am thrilled to be part of such a worthwhile cause, raising lots of money for Children in Need."

DONATIONS PLEASE... 'WE NEED EVERY PENNY!'

LEFT: Porthcawl Comprehensive School students were out to catch the eye, and the coins, when collecting for Children in Need. (Turn to page 7 to see just how well they did!)

RIGHT: Celebration time... *for the Bryntirion Comprehensive team – winners of the Bridgend Rotary Club's senior Youth Speaks competition.*

Bryntirion's orators win 'Youth Speaks' debating competition

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend senior Youth Speaks competition was held on November 19 at Brynteg Comprehensive School, when an appreciative audience was treated to an evening of spirited debate and passionate argument by teams from four schools in the borough.

A spokesman reports: Teams of three, made up of a chairperson, a proposer and an opposer, debated a topic of their own choice.

This year, five teams representing Brynteg Comprehensive, who fielded two teams, Bryntirion Comprehensive, Archbishop McGrath Catholic School and Ynysawdre Comprehensive provided the audience with stimulating and thought-provoking debate.

The standard of debate this year was again very high, making the task of the adjudicators a very difficult one.

Eventually, the judging team, Jean Davies (chair), Cynthia Williams and William McAllister awarded first place, and the Don Lewis Memorial Cup, to the team from Bryntirion, who debated the motion: *'This house believes that television is a weapon of mass destruction'*.

The motion was proposed by Sean Landy, opposed by Sion Edmonds, and the debate was effectively chaired by Marc Ennis.

In a clean sweep, all three also won the prizes for the best proposer, opposer and chair respectively.

The trophies were presented by the Mayor, Coun Jeff Tildesley.

Police appeal after laser pen shone on crowd

PORTHCAWL police are hunting for the person responsible for directing a laser pen into the crowd at the town's fireworks display at the Hi-Tide on Guy Fawkes Night.

PC Jerry Owen of Porthcawl Neighbourhood Policing Team said he was approached by a number of people concerned about the use of laser pens among the spectators.

"Our investigations into this incident have progressed and I would like to hear from any members of the public who approached police officers on the night to report their concerns."

Anyone with any information, or who may have approached officers at the Hi-Tide on November 5, is asked to contact PC Owen at Porthcawl Police Station, on 101.

Maesteg burglary: police appeal

POLICE are investigating a burglary at a house on River Street, Maesteg which occurred between 1am and 9am on Friday, November 20.

A wallet containing bank cards, a Nokia mobile telephone and an MP3 player were among some of the items stolen.

Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant of Bridgend CID said: "We are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious to do with this incident during the night in question, or who may have information about this crime".

DC Rebecca Merchant can be contacted at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

WHATS ON AT

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Dale will make his mark this Christmas

Headmaster Ben Blackall, Dale Thomas and Madeleine Moon.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon recently dropped in to Penybont Primary School to congratulate Dale Thomas, a year-6 pupil, for designing her Christmas card for 2009.

Madeleine met with the new headteacher Ben Blackall, and presented Dale with his prize in their 'state of the art' IT suite.

Mrs Moon said: "Dale was genuinely surprised and delighted to hear that I had chosen his work for my 2009 Christmas card. His design will now be printed and sent out to constituents, MPs and Ministers, with Christmas wishes.

"I will be back in Penybont Primary School in December to talk to year-6 about keeping safe on the internet and to distribute my internet leaflets to the pupils and their parents."

'THANK YOU'

A BIG thank you to the two young ladies who helped me home last Saturday afternoon when I fell near the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl.

Also to the gentleman who offered help – your kindness has bee much appreciated.
Cissie Smith, Porthcawl

BRIDGEND COLLEGE WINS NATIONAL BEACON SCIENCE AWARD

BRIDGEND College has won an Association of Colleges Beacon Award for pointing students to science through a course in forensics.

It was announced at a ceremony hosted by comedienne and author Shappi Khorsandi at the AoC's annual conference in Birmingham on November 17.

Bridgend College won the Mercers' Company award for science and mathematics for its work on its BTEC national diploma in forensic science which has encouraged greater participation in science-based courses.

The course, which is open to both 16-19 year olds and adult students, includes units on law, psychology and crime scene photography and students work closely with South Wales Police and the Forensic Science Service on real and simulated crime scenes. They also practice giving courtroom evidence and laboratory work.

Mark Jones, principal of Bridgend College, said: "We are delighted to win an accolade as prestigious as an AOC Beacon Award, which recognises and endorses the exceptional quality of teaching in science and maths, in addition to our close collaborative links with partners such as South Wales Police and the Forensic Science Service.

Students with Chief Constable Nick Croft.

"This award follows on from an outstanding HMI Estyn Inspection earlier this year, where Bridgend College was awarded 10 Grade 1's, recognising the quality of the learning and teaching here at Bridgend, which we have positioned at the very heart of the student experience".

Bridgend College will host a local celebration event in the New Year and will be presented with their award by Kevin Brennan MP, Minister of State for further education, at Westminster in February.

Opencast mining appeals rejected

TWO planning appeals relating to the proposed extension of the opencast site in Margam, Port Talbot, have been dismissed, the Welsh Assembly Government announced on Friday.

The appeals were made by Celtic Energy Limited in relation to decisions by Neath Port Talbot Council and Bridgend Council.

Celtic Energy Ltd applied for planning permission to extract coal by opencast methods. This included the extension to the existing site, screening, restoration and aftercare management at Margam Opencast Coal Site, near Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend.

Both councils refused to grant planning permission and Celtic Energy Ltd appealed to the Welsh Ministers against those refusals.

The appeals were originally transferred to a planning inspector for determination, but the Welsh Ministers recovered jurisdiction over the appeals so that they could determine them themselves.

An Assembly spokesman stated: "Jurisdiction was recovered because the appeals involved major proposals for the winning and working of minerals.

"Under planning law, the Minister's decision on the appeals is final and it is not possible for her, or anyone else within the Welsh Assembly Government or the Planning Inspectorate, to comment on the merits of the decision or discuss the reasoning behind it or to reconsider it."

Trace your roots in the local library

RESIDENTS wanting to trace their family tree, are being urged by Gavin and Stacy star Ruth Jones to make the local library their first port of call.

"Libraries in Bridgend County Borough offer a variety of resources to assist you in your local and family history research with books, newspapers, periodicals, photographs, maps, plans, illustrations, directories, electoral registers, records and census returns. Free internet access is invaluable in your search enabling you to scan a wide range of websites including ancestry.com which is available in libraries at no charge (normal subscription rates are over £60 per year) which features a searchable list of all British prisoners of war captured in Europe during World War Two," a spokeswoman said.

Genealogist Cat Whiteaway studies the history of families and the line of descent from their ancestors and said: "The local knowledge of library staff is key and we very often find volunteers with expertise and enthusiasm in a particular subject area."

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 03)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	01.31	11.5	14.08	11.7
27 Fri	02.43	11.8	15.18	12.0
28 Sat	03.46	12.1	16.24	12.5
29 Sun	04.49	12.7	17.16	13.2
30 Mon	05.34	13.5	17.59	13.7
01 Tues	06.28	13.9	18.54	14.1
02 Wed	07.17	14.3	19.46	14.4
03 Thur	07.59	14.6	20.38	14.8

Bridgend in line for a top award

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is in the running for an APSE performance networks award and will be judged alongside local authorities from across the UK.

The ceremony is a high-profile occasion where both the best performing authorities and the most improved are recognised for their achievements.

Named as a best performer in the school catering service category and most improved for street cleansing, Bridgend County Borough Council will attend the awards ceremony, hosted by Strictly Come Dancing star Camilla Dallerup, at the Hilton Hotel in Blackpool on December 3.

Having won the education catering award last year, BCBC has also been invited to present to delegates at the APSE performance network seminar earlier on in the day.

Coun Alana Davies, cabinet member for children and young people, said:

"To have maintained such a high standard of service after winning the award for best performer at last year's event is quite an achievement in itself and testament to the hard work of the education catering and street cleansing teams."

Coun John Spanswick, cabinet member for communities, said:

"The APSE awards exist to promote a culture of improvement in local government. Bridgend County Borough Council strives to provide the best services in Wales.

"I wish both teams all the very best for the final in December."

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open: Mon: 10:00am to 1:00pm - No callers - Phone only; Tue: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes _ hour earlier; Wed: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes _ hour earlier; Thu: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes _ hour earlier; Fri: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes _ hour earlier.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555
Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing service
(General inquiries) **01656 643643;**
(emergencies out of hours) **01656 643643;**
(homelessness) **01656 643643.**
EDUCATION 01656 643643
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643643**
HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
SOCIAL SERVICES
(general enquiries) **01656 642200**
SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **01443 204010**
HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend **01656 752752/668090.**
Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752/668090.**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
Brackla Community Council **01656 767072**
Bridgend Town Council **01656 659943**
Cefn Cribwr Community Council **01656 741354**
Coity Higher Community Council **01656 656358**
Cornelly Community Council **07882 044798**
Pyle Community Council **01656 670251**
Coychurch Higher Community Council **01656 863418**
Coychurch Lower Community Council **01656 647216**
Garw Valley Community Council **01656 736751**
Laleston Community Council **01656 656506**
Llangynwyd Lower Council **01656 720086**
Maesteg Town Council **01656 732631**
Merthyr Mawr Community Council **01656 670058**
Newcastle Higher Community Council **01446 750663.**
Ogmore Valley Community Council **01656 849402**
Pencoed Town Council **01656 869031**
Porthcawl Town Council **01656 782215**
St Brides Minor Community Council **01656 725031**
Ynysawdre Community Council **01656 736751**

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Website helps to build bridges

A PORTHCAWL SCHOOL GOES INTERNATIONAL!

Orla Keating from Ireland with her hand-painted flag-chair and Mrs Sarll with hers.

A PORTHCAWL school is building bridges with schools in Turkey, Ireland, Iceland and Germany through a new website, www.twiig.com

Schools in all these countries are taking part in a two-year Comenius project, based on the concept of Respect.

Mrs Caroline Sarll, languages teacher at St John's School, Porthcawl, travelled to Germany where all of the partner countries received a "fantastic, warm welcome" from the staff and pupils of the Schillergrundschule in Wiesloch:

Mrs Sarll reported: "It was a wonderful experience. There was a huge banner to greet us at the front of the school, and we were all given superb hand-painted chairs showing our own country's flag.

"There was Wuerstchen and Kartoffelbrei for lunch – that's bangers 'n' mash to you and me – and after visiting various classes, all the teachers got down to the task of planning our joint activities for the coming year."

She continued: "The Turkish teachers from Sivas brought four of their pupils to Germany and St John's will be welcoming both Turkish and German pupils in January, when all five countries meet up again in Porthcawl."

The headteacher at St John's, Mrs Clint, said: "We are all busy making preparations for the New Year visit. We are also looking forward to taking some of our pupils to some of the countries over the next two years, to broaden their horizons.

"This is a very rewarding, enriching scheme to be involved in and I know that St. John's staff and pupils – and the wider community - will benefit enormously from the experience."

The school is also planning a welcome concert for their visitors in January, to give the other countries a flavour of Welsh culture. Mrs Sarll is also trying to learn a little Turkish, Irish – and Gaelic!

She added: "It's definitely an uphill task. I think this will teach me humility and patience when teaching my pupils – learning a new language is really hard!"

Nominate your worthy citizens

THE deadline is fast approaching for the public to nominate outstanding citizens in the county borough, to be recognised in the Mayor's Citizenship Awards.

The closing date is December 4 and the awards are open to all citizens who live and work in the borough and have made a positive impact within the community.

Groups and businesses that deserve recognition can also be nominated, said Coun Jeff Tildesley, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council.

"All borough residents can be nominated for an award. I would particularly like to hear about any exceptional members of the community who have carried out an act of bravery or achieved excellence in sport, for instance.

"I would also encourage people to nominate those who carry out voluntary or charitable work in the area."

For full details and a nomination form, log on to www.bridgend.gov.uk or phone (01656) 643663.

Society has best display ever!

PENCOED Flower Arranging Society held its annual open Christmas demonstration at the Pencoed Social Club on Monday, November 16.

Despite the atrocious weather, the local flower clubs and faithful supporters came along.

Beryl Griffiths from Gloucester, gave an entertaining evening talk about her life as a farmer's wife, cake decorating and her interest in fabrics.

Beryl proved her talents with fabulous flowers and stunning accessories, and the finished stage display was wonderful. Everyone agreed that it was the best ever – the Christmas evening has been staged for 22 years.

Thanks to the staff of the social club for their help and cooperation and to all who came along.

HT

December will be very busy month!

At the meeting of Laleston WI on November 5, the president reported that a group had attended the autumn council meeting in Barry and a full report was given by Margaret Aylen.

Five members had attended the Kurling afternoon in Bridgend Leisure Centre and they had thoroughhlenjoyed the experience.

Future events - Christmas evening (December 4),

The Blitz Museum, Swansea, trip "Christmas at War" (December 5), Carol Festival Brangwyn Hall (December 7).

'Colours Galore – Artist's View' – was the title of the talk by guest Mrs Mears, who told of her many artistic efforts, having started knitting at the age of four.

She progressed to fashion design and photography and is recently new to painting. Mrs Mears exhibited many of her paintings and explained how they came about, and she also showed some most unusual knitted wall hangings. A vote of thanks was given by Marlene Davies.

The next meeting, on December 4, has a Christmas flavour.

Bridgend health worker Lasu wins top care award

A BRIDGEND health support worker, who entered the caring profession after being a cleaner at a nursing home, has been honoured for her dedication and devotion as a carer.

Lasu McKenzie.

Thanks to the support of Lasu McKenzie, a young woman with severe learning disabilities has been able to enjoy a much more active life.

Lasu is a health care support worker with April Complete Care Solutions Ltd, based in Bridgend.

At the Wales Care Awards she received a bronze award in the category for supported living care practitioners. She was nominated by her manager Wendy Duckworth.

The awards are organised by the Care Forum Wales, the main representative body of the care sector in Wales, and the glittering prize-giving ceremony was held at City Hall, Cardiff.

The mother-of-two was born in Coventry and moved to south Wales 30 years ago.

She entered the caring profession by an unusual route, having worked as a cleaner at a nursing home. She was persuaded to become a carer at the home, and 10 years ago joined her present employers, working in the community.

"I never thought I would be able to do the work, but I just love working one-to-one and getting to know all about the service-users I care for," she said.

"I find the whole job so rewarding and I'm sure that when the time comes for me to retire I'll carry on doing something similar on a voluntary basis," she added.

Wendy Duckworth said Lasu – the name came from her Bangladeshi father but she is known to her colleagues as Sue – was an excellent role model for other staff, being totally committed to the welfare of her clients.

"She is constantly monitoring the needs of her clients and actively involves herself in ensuring that referrals to health professionals are followed up where there are any concerns regarding her clients' equipment and resources," said Wendy.

Sarah's design creates a buzz in Bridgend

ABOVE: Sarah Dunkley with her winning logo.

THE Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association has a new logo designed by Sarah Dunkley, a BTEC national diploma in art and design student at Bridgend College.

A college spokeswoman explained that the project came about at the start of term, when Guy O'Donnell, arts project officer at Bridgend County Borough Council, asked lecturer Lee Thomas if his students could produce a logo for the association.

A total of 27 art students produced initial designs, which were presented to Sue Verran, secretary for Bridgend Beekeepers.

Sarah Dunkley's logo was chosen and transformed from a torn paper collage design into a digital logo by Dan Haigh, art and design technician at Bridgend College.

Sue Verran said: "Although there has been a Beekeeping Association in Bridgend for more than 100 years, we have never had our own logo. We approached Bridgend College to help us with the design.

"We chose Sarah's design as it lent itself to be used as a letterhead, on t-shirts, bags and banners. In addition, elements can be used for the website. Sarah was very professional and took on board the design changes we asked for. We particularly liked her fresh, simple design and the movement of the bee.

"The students are bright, helpful and informative. It has been a pleasure working with Bridgend College; they are a valuable resource for organisations big and small in the Bridgend area."

Sarah hopes to enrol at the University of Wales, Newport next September to study art and design at degree level.

Story-tellers keep it in the family...

ABOVE (left to right): Fred Mitchell, who runs the Porthcawl U3A story-telling class, Meryl Smith and Rolfe Mitchell.

AS reported in last week's GEM, members of The University of the Third Age in Porthcawl recently visited Porthcawl Stroke Club to demonstrate their story-telling skills.

Three members of the Mitchell family, originally from Marlas Road, Pyle, gave an insight into the world of story telling.

Brothers Fred and Rolfe Mitchell, with their sister, Meryl Smith, kept the audience entertained with their tales, many of which had a strong local connection.

Candle service

A CANDLE Service will be held at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, on December 6, at 4pm.

This beautiful service for love, hope and peace is now an annual event for the Porthcawl committee for Cancer Research.

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School choir will be singing and so will Sound Familiar. Please come along to light and dedicate a candle for a loved one and help the fight against cancer.

Work on disability gains the Bridgend College a top award

GARETH JENKINS, assistive technology officer at Bridgend College was successful in achieving the "British Computer Society Quality Mark for Accessibility" at the BCS Accessibility Achievement Day on October 27 at the institute's London offices.

Left to right: Gareth Jenkins (assistive technology officer, Bridgend College) David Clarke (chief executive BCS), Lyndon Hancock, Jan Griffiths (IT lecturer, Bridgend College) and Dr Howard Leicester (Faculty of Health Informatics, Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh).

This was specifically for his pioneering work with Lyndon Hancock, a blind student who is undertaking an IT course, ECDL Extra, in which Gareth has implemented screen-reading software packages to make the course accessible.

The BCS-approved centres were judged according to the methods they use to help disabled candidates achieve BCS qualifications such as the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

Gareth, Lyndon and Jan Griffiths, ECDL Extra Tutor, attended the ceremony, where Lyndon also received an award. Awards were presented to disabled candidates, who in the opinion of the judges have made a notable achievement.

Kath Jones, disability manager at Bridgend College said: "I am delighted with this acknowledgment of the work done in this area of specialist student support. We are at the forefront of implementing assistive technology for blind and visually-impaired students and to receive this prestigious award, and achieve this status among a group of competitors, who were mainly specialist colleges, is testament to the great work of staff at Bridgend College and I am very proud of this recognition."

Bridgend music event aims to tackle scourge of racism

ON November 28, Bridgend Love Music Hate Racism (LMHR) will hold its third gig in as many years.

An LMHR spokesman said: "LMHR was set up nationally in 2002, in response to rising levels of racism and electoral success for the British National Party (BNP) and strives to use the energy of the music scene to celebrate diversity in a multicultural, multiracial society.

"The previous two events, held at Bridgend Recreation Centre, have proven the LMHR statement that 'music is living testimony to the fact that cultures can and do mix', with hundreds of people from the community enjoying the music that our diverse culture offers.

"Weapons of Mass Percussion return with their brand of lively, rhythmical, entertaining drumming, comprising different styles moulded together into their unique sound.

"Internationally renowned Nigerian musician Jazzy Africana also makes a return to the LMHR stage following an inspiring performance last time round.

"Taking to the stage fresh off a European tour come a New Day. This four-piece, with members hailing from Bridgend, Stoke-on-Trent and as far as Munster, Germany, play a combination of punk-rock and hardcore.

"In contrast comes the poetic lyricist Patrick Jones. The brother of Manic Street Preachers bassist Nicky Wire, Patrick is author of many published works, including most recently his CD '*Tongues for a stammering time*' and anthology '*Darkness is where the stars are*'.

"The night ends with headliners Kali Mist, an eight-piece that blends reggae with ska and dub elements to create an individual sound.

"Developing out of the Bridgend punk scene, they competed in the 2008 Global Battle of the Bands competition, coming out as Welsh champions."

It all takes place this Saturday, November 28, at 7pm, in Bridgend Recreation Centre Concert Hall.

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Two very special (junior) constables report for duty!

ABOVE: The junior PCSOs with fellow pupils and PCSO Carl Westgate and headteacher Mr Andrew Wood.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

AS was previously reported in The GEM, two pupils from Newton Primary School, Porthcawl, recently had the chance to be PCSOs for a day!

Year-6 pupils Hannah Robertson and Morgan Carter put on their uniforms and went 'on the beat' in the school under the supervision of PCSO Carl Westgate, and their own headteacher, Mr Andrew Wood.

ABOVE: Hannah and Morgan comparing notes.

ABOVE: The juniors PCSOs were out and about inspecting cars to check if valuables had been left on show.

School pupils (and MP) have celebration in local store

Included in the picture (above) are: Archdeacon John Lewis Church Primary School, with teacher Mr M Owens and pupils Elise Gregory and Hywel Phillips; Maes yr Haul Primary School, represented by teacher Mr M Kiernan with pupils Harriet Utley and Francesca Davies; Trelales Primary School represented by teacher Mr Barrington with pupils Molly Brace and Nicholas Ivey); and Tremains Primary School represented by teacher Mrs Karen Hooper with pupils Lois James and Joshua Percival.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon joined pupils from five local schools at a celebration marking the success of this year's Tesco for Schools & Clubs scheme in Bridgend.

The store group amalgamated Computer for Schools and Sports for Schools & Clubs to create Tesco for Schools & Clubs.

A catalogue contained thousands of pieces of equipment and resources for primary and secondary school students.

"Earlier this year, shoppers in the area received vouchers which they donated to a school or club of their choice.

"These schools and clubs were then able to choose what equipment they wanted from the catalogue – from paints and canvases to cricket bats, digital cameras, computer software and recycling bins," said Andrew Lamb, manager at Bridgend ExtraTesco.

"Tesco for Schools & Clubs is a scheme which my team are proud to be part of.

"Thousands of customers have been collecting vouchers to help their local schools and clubs get this new equipment, showing what can happen when a whole community gets involved."

NEW OPERETTA GIVES THE SAVOYARDS A FRESH CHALLENGE

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE: Amelia Jones, Elizabeth Sumner and Andrea Jones

CHARITY performances by The Mid-Glamorgan Savoyards have become an eagerly anticipated event in Porthcawl's community arts diary and this year's offering, *The Brigands*, did not disappoint.

Offenbach's work for musical theatre is well known from operettas like *La Belle Hélène* to the stricter opera form of *Tales of Hoffmann*. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Mid Glamorgan Savoyards are associated with English 19th Century operetta, particularly their successful performances of the Gilbert and Sullivan canon.

It was refreshing to hear this established company cross the channel to France for the musical lollipop that is Offenbach's *The Brigands*.

Possibly it was in this freshness that the appeal of the evening lay – the company's engagement with the unfamiliar tunes and story-line had an extra vibrancy, and the balance of voices in the onstage and pit chorus was supported by rich orchestral tone.

Experience showed in the witty and vocally-focussed performances of many of the principals, while the talented work from the new company members reinforced the feeling of energy and invigoration.

Projects like this are the lifeblood of community and local arts, both for the opportunities they give to committed performers to work together and for their generous work for charity. Audiences should look forward to Mid Glamorgan Savoyards' performance for 2010.

GODFREY EVANS

LEFT: Fiorella (Rhiannon Evans) with the as yet unrecognised Prince of Mantua (Nicky Philips)

Support our Soldiers collection in Bridgend

A COLLECTION for the 'Support our Soldiers' appeal at Tesco Bridgend raised £99 and seven trolleys of goods to be sent to British troops overseas in time for Christmas.

Pictured are Jacqui Morgan (Tesco customer service manager) and Heather Deeks (area co-ordinator for the 'Support our Soldiers' campaign).

For information on the 'Support o ur Soldiers' campaign, please contact Heather Deeks by email: Heather@support oursoldiers.co.uk

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REHEARSALS IN FULL SWING AS...

Students plan to have a ball with Cinderella panto

STUDENTS at Bridgend College are busily rehearsing for their panto *Cinderella*, at the Bridgend Recreation Centre, from December 8-11.

Full details from Colin Richards, email:cmrichards@bridgend.ac.uk or telephone 01656 302381, Mobile: 07932 009425.

ABOVE: The cast of Cinderella are put through their paces.

THE CAST

Cinderella, Rachel Thomas, Understudy, Hayley Phillips; Prince, Dale Evans; Buttons, David Cross; Smash, Stephanie Fryer; Grab, Rebecca Williams; Major Domo, Rhiannon Griffiths; Fairy Godmother, Laurieleigh Dutton Watkins, Tamara Harding; Baron, Sam Dando; Daisy, Luke Morrissey; Buttercup, Sarah Parsons; Dandini, Samantha Dodd; Dancers, Jodi Nicholson, Cerys McGrath, Hayley Phillips, Gareth Jones, Adam Taylor, Greg Sage; Swings, Tasha Coliandris, Holly Bluett, Jack Morgan.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

OBITUARY

FAMILY, friends and neighbours attended the funeral of the late Mrs Cissie Burt, which took place on November 17 at St David's Church, Pencoed.

Following the service, which was conducted by Rev Nick Jones, the cortege proceeded to the Mid Glamorgan Crematorium at Coychurch.

Cissie was a true Pencoed lady, born when it was a small village. She played her part during the Second World War by joining the Women's Land Army at the tender age of 17.

She was sent to work on a farm in Cornwall for four years, eventually returning to work near Pencoed.

Cissie had many interest, some of which she enjoyed with her late husband, Tommy. They were both active members of the Buffs. cissie was also an active member of the Pencoed Mothers' Union and had played a role in the Treoes-based Young at Heart Club.

She will be sadly by her many friends, as well as her family.

Our thoughts at this sad time are with Cissie's daughters, Caroline, Angel and Denise and her grandsons.

A moving tribute was paid by Cissie's sister who said Cissie was not only her sister, but also her best friend.

TREOES CAROLS

THIS year's carol service at Saron Chapel, Treoes, will take place on Sunday, December 13 at the earlier time of 2.15pm.

Everyone welcome.

ARTS FESTIVAL

CHILDREN from Llangan Primary will join pupils from Archdeacon John Lewis Church in Wales Primary School, Bridgend, in a St Nicholas Day Christmas concert at Ewenny Priory Church on December 3.

The concert will be hosted by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale of Glamorgan, at 7pm. Tickets £5 from Llangan School on 01446 772403, Ewenny Pottery (01656 653020) and M Major (01656 664105).

You can read your GEM online at www.bridgend-today.co.uk or www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Laying the foundations for young engineers

BRIDGEND College is hosting Engineering Week Wales (November 23-27) for the fifth consecutive year, with 90 year-9 school pupils from local comprehensive schools including Maesteg, Archbishop McGrath and Pencoed taking part in interactive workshops.

A spokeswoman said that activities include a technology transfer task, building an electric car, vehicle system fault diagnosis and racing model hovercrafts, supervised by engineering lecturers and RWE npower, Corus and Ford apprentices.

College bands rock the Rec

EARLIER this month, four bands from Bridgend College and Coleg Morgannwg battled it out to win a one day recording session in a professional music studio, sponsored by Prawn Studio, Bridgend.

On the judging panel was Polly James, presenter at Nation Radio and Andre Van Wyk, arts development officer at Bridgend County Borough Council.

Each band performed a 20-minute set, and the Magpies from Coleg Morgannwg were triumphant.

The event was held in Bridgend Recreation Centre as part of 'Colleges Week', where students from across Wales celebrated their talents, successes and diversity through a range of activities.

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Coytrahen ladies climb Ben Nevis for cancer charity

TWO Coytrahen ladies recently climbed Ben Nevis to raise money for Breast Cancer Care.

Lynette Sewter and Debbie Owen raised almost £2,000 between them, and both women made it to the top of the Scottish mountain!

On their return, Lynette and Debbie said: "We would like to thank everyone who contributed, with special thanks to Pen-y-Fai WI and Tondu and District Art Society, whose members gave so much to the cause.

"Thanks also go to Phil Jones of Coytrahen shop, and Dave and Pearl of the Nicholls Arms."

They added; "The climd was arduous, and only possible after months of hard training, but it was all worth it in the end!"

ABOVE: Debbie Owen (left) and Lynette Sewter.

LATEST RESULTS FROM THE GEM QUIZ LEAGUE

Royal Oak Nomads set the pace

ON Monday November 16, three of the first division teams had high scores.

The leaders, Royal Oak Nomads, had a 58-42 win at the Mackworth Arms, thus raising their average to 49.5. Oldcastle 'A' got 50 to Tondu Railway Club's 40 and Maesteg Catholic Club beat Llynfi Arms 48-40, a game that was, apparently, much closer than the score suggests.

Llangeinor AFC had a 38-35 win against Prince of Wales 'A'. The latter may have only one point in the table, but their average score is up there with half of the rest.

The remaining game resulted in a weakened team, Royal Oak Royals, going down at home to Laleston Inn 'A' by 36-35.

Top score in Division Two was by Swan Poachers who won 43-27 away to Laleston Inn 'B'. However, Prince of Wales 'B' stay two points clear at the top after their 40-37 victory against Cabo Roche.

The other three matches were very close affairs, with none as close as the 37-all draw between Pyle RFC and Heol-y-Cyw RFC. Llangewydd Arms won 40-39 at the Oddfellows Arms, while Oldcastle 'B' were pipped by the visitors, the Gamekeepers by 36-35.

Here are your teasers:

1 In the films *The Hustler* and *The Colour of Money*, what was the name of the character played by Paul Newman?

2 What is the alternative name for the horned rattlesnake which moves by looping its body in an 'S' shape movement?

3 Which football club, founded in 1887, has only once played in the top tier of English football, doing so in the 1997-98 season?

4 Captain Matthew Webb, the first man to swim the English Channel, died in 1883 during an attempt to swim across which body of water?

A RUDGE
(Hon sec BGQL)

Answers
1 Fast Eddie Felson.
2 Sidewinder.
3 Barnsley.
4 Niagara Falls.

Downs Christmas Trees

We are back again at The Downs, Cowbridge from Saturday 28th November 2009

Huge selection of farm fresh handpicked low needle drop trees from 4ft to 20ft. Choose from Welsh-grown Fragrant Fraser trees, Celtic Nordmanns and Spruces. All trees are on display in full glory, in the undercover festive forest.

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New This Year . . . Santa will be in his Grotto on Saturday and Sunday between 10am - 4pm. Entry Fee includes Christmas gift.

www.thedownschristmastrees.co.uk

How hero's name was added to a town's war memorial

GEM reader Mr RB Donovan of Bridgend, formerly of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Royal Welch Fusiliers, here relates the tale of World War One hero Sydney Abraham Hayward, whose name was omitted from all the south Wales monuments and the efforts of his family to rectify this error.

SIDNEY Abraham Hayward – Army number 20893 (1892-1917) was the youngest of 11 children, born to George Abraham.

Sydney was baptised in Cowbridge on July 27, 1892. Nothing is known about his childhood until the 1901 census reveals that he was living with his parents at 11 East Village, Cowbridge.

Sydney was lodging with Mr T James at 99 Old Road, Skewen, until he volunteered for active service in the Great War. He joined up in January 1915 in Kitchener's Army.

Sydney was listed as being in the 14th Battalion RWF, but this Battalion was formed in Llandudno. It was more likely that he was a member of the 14th Service Battalion (Swansea) of the Welch Regiment,The Swansea Pals.

Both of these regiments were part of the 38th (Welsh) Division and saw the same actions, so it is possible to piece together his movements on the Western Front.

Sydney arrived in France on December 2, 1915. The first action he took part in was the 38th (Welsh) Divison's assault on Mamtez Wood during the July 1916 offensive on the Somme.

This assault cost the Division some 4,000 lives, which is a staggering number as each Battalion was approximately 500-strong, and the Division had seven Battalions.

The 38th (Welsh) Division suffered so many casualties at Mamtez Wood that it did not see any further action for a year while it was strengthened. The Battalion was next in action during the preparation for the third battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele which started in July 1917 and would start at Pilkem Ridge, as the target.

Sydney was killed at Bosinghe in Belgium just in front of the Yser canal by a barrage from the German artillery while in a small dug out.

While the family was researching Sydney's life it was noticed that his name was not on any of the many Welsh monuments that are dotted around south Wales.

His nephew (also named Sydney), started a series of events that culminated in Sydney's name being added to the Cowbridge War Memorial.

This move was done with the Cowbridge town council's full support and led to Sydney having his name inscribed on the town's memorial.

The parade was joined by comrades of his old regiment, including serving members of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and many comrades from other regiments, with the branch Standards being dipped as the bugler played *The Last Post*.

So, after a 90-year absence, his name was added to the memorial.

BRIDGEND PACT MEETINGS

BRACKLA PACT, Brackla Junior School, Brackl`a Way, Brackla, today (November 26), 6.30pm.

FELINDRE, HENDRE AND PERPRYSG (Pencoed) PACT, Welfare Hall, Pencoed, December 9, 7pm.

LITCHARD AND PENDRE PACT, Coity Higher community Centre, Heol West Plas, Bridgend, December 17, 6pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT, Wildmill Community Centre, Bridgend, January 14, 6.30pm.

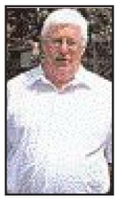
If you have any non emergency issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing team on 101, or log onto www.ourbobby.com

Read your GEM online - www.bridgend-today.co.uk or www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



ME group

I HAVE received a letter containing information about the relatively unknown illness, Myalgic Encephalopathy, from the ME support group in Glamorgan.

It affects approximately 250,000 people in the UK, and 17 million worldwide, but there is now hope for sufferers, following a scientific report published in 'Science', containing findings of research carried out in the USA.

The information can be found on the internet.

The ME group holds support meetings for sufferers at the following venues: Thornhill Community Centre (by Sainsbury's) off Excaliber Drive the first Monday of the month between 2.30pm-4pm.

For more information, phone Chris on 02920 762347.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS go to Rhydian Jenkins the 12-year-old boy soprano, who won the junior section of the Bridgend 'Young Singer of the Year' competition this year.

He recently competed in the Gwyl Cerdd Dant festival, Riverside Theatre, Newport, and out of 25 competitors aged up to 16, he came third so well done to him.

Book prizes

MARTIN Griffiths, headteacher of Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor thanks friends of the school who donated books as prizes to the pupils whose reading had improved the most through the school term.

They were *Read me a Story* illustrated by Cathie Shuttleworth, written by Nicola Baxter for the winner of class one. The *Children's Knowledge Encyclopedia,* published by Parragon for class two and *The Usborne Internet-Linked Children's Encyclopedia* for class three.

The PTFA have worked so hard organising the Christmas fayre for tomorrow, Friday, November 27, in the Richard Price Centre at 2pm.

Charity concert

ABERKENFIG Church was originally the Lyric cinema, but planning permission was given early this millennium for it to be converted to a religious building in the name of the Front Line church.

I went to a charity concert there last Friday in aid of Ty Hafan by the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir, conducted by Alan Hodges, accompanied by Susan Hodges and compèred by Anthony Bwye.

This choir have a vast repertoire of popular songs in both English and Welsh it is impossible to list them all, but one stands out *The flower shattered the stone*, written by the American singer/song writer John Denver in 1990.

This has been specially arranged and adapted by Susan Hodges for the choir.

The choir also has a brilliant solo tenor in Anthony Bwy.

There was also a soprano soloist, Charlotte Skidmore from St Clare's school, Porthcawl.

I had heard this young lady compete in the Bridgend 'young singer of the year' competition this year at Maesteg town hall, but hearing her sing in this concert it was amazing how she had matured.

Her repertoire contained a large variety of songs from both classical and popular theatrical shows.

I'm pleased to inform readers that the concert raised over £432 for Ty Hafan hospice.

The auditions for the 2010 Bridgend 'young singer of the year' competition are being held at this venue on Saturday, November 28,starting at 10am. At the last count, 25 youngsters will be taking part.

The finals are being held in Maesteg town hall on Saturday, January 30.

Soldiers' charity

MAESTEG 'Gleemen' male voice choir is participating in another charity concert for the Save our Soldiers charity in the Royal British Legion club in Aberkenfig on Saturday, December 5.

This is the fourth charity concert they have performed in just over two weeks. Choir members give up an amazing amount of time to raise money for various charities.

The choir rehearses at the Royal British Legion club, Commercial Street, Maesteg on Monday and Thursday evenings between 7pm-8.30pm, visitors and new choristers are made most welcome.

Ogmore valley choir

THERE is a Christmas musical evening with the Ogmore Valley male voice choir at St Bride's Church, Llansantffraid, on Friday, December 4, at 7pm.

Admission is £5 and tickets can be obtained from Kay on 01656 767135.

Carol concert

THE concert 'Carols in the Pavilion' is, as usual, part of the exciting run-up to Christmas.

It takes place on two nights to accommodate all the talent in Porthcawl and the surrounding area – Monday, November 30 and Tuesday, December 1. The doors open at 6.30pm and the concert is at 7pm-9pm,

Tickets are £3, available at the box office in the Pavilion.

8,000 pennies for the Guy (and charity!)

STORE customers in Bridgend were greeted by this appeal for 'Penny for the Tesco Guy' on November 5 and contributed an extra £80 towards Muscular Dystrophy – Tesco's charity of the year.

Pupils (and teachers) go over the top at Porthcawl Comp for Children in Need

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

PUPILS and staff at Porthcawl Comprehensive School pulled out all the stops for Children in Need last week.

The students arrived in fancy dress, and there were fundraising events all day.

However, the hottest tickets were for the school's own 'X-Factor' contest, with teachers taking to the stage to face the cheers or jeers of a highly-amused audience.

There was also a panel of judges, with Mr Murdoch as Louis Walsh, Mrs Coombes as Dannii Minogue, Miss Llewellyn as Cheryl Cole and Mr Thomas as Simon 'Cawl'.

First on stage were the lady teachers, dressed as Mrs Mopps, who performed a complicated song and dance routine – complete with the appropriate props!

Next up were Mr Owen and Mr John, who put on a spirited performance as the Blues Brothers – although it was noted that Mr Owen's use of the microphone had not been properly risk-assessed – leaving his on-stage partner to take rapid evasive action!

Finally, no show put on by teachers is complete without a drag act, and Mr Card and Mr Booth proved to be a very fetching pair of housewives!

As The GEM went to press, the fundraising activities were still being counted, but a school spokeswoman said the total had already passed £5,500..

ABOVE: Headteacher Mr Kenny Dykes with his chocolate factory workers!

ABOVE: The Scooby-Doo gang turned up.

ABOVE: Mr Owen and Mr John had the half pack of cigarettes. They had the sunglasses. But did they have the full tank of gas?

ABOVE: Mr Card and Mr Booth.

ABOVE: Lady teachers, performing as 'Alex and the Berks'.

ABOVE: The judges had plenty to say.

Annie and Sammie.

ABOVE: The canteen staff were auctioning a signed Ospreys squad photograph.

Hannah, Emily, Jodie and Katy.

Entrepreneur is rewarded for her enterprise

Mike Jones, regional chair of FSB South Wales, Emma Staple and Sian Lloyd.

A YOUNG entrepreneur from Bridgend has won the prestigious Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Enterprise prize at The Prince's Trust Cymru's Celebrate Success awards.

Emma Staple (25), received her award at a star-studded ceremony at Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff, from Welsh TV presenter Sian Lloyd.

After graduating from university, Emma struggled to find a job and decided to set up her own business with help from The Prince's Trust.

The Trust offered her a low interest loan to start Uniform2Go, which supplies high quality school uniforms in the local area.

Emma now employs one full-time member of staff, as well as a part-time member worker.

Emma said: "I'm overwhelmed to have won this award, especially as the other two finalists in this category had such strong business ideas.

"I've had the best year starting up my own business and tonight is the icing on the cake. Thank you so much to the Prince's Trust for making it all possible."

Kempton Rees of Penarth won the Legal and General Volunteer of the Year award.

New oil depot offers discount

INDEPENDENT oil distributor, Watson Fuels' new depot at Cardiff's Wentloog Corporate Park, supplies local communities with domestic heating oil, plus industrial and agricultural fuels and lubricants.

To celebrate the launch, customers can claim a £10 discount on their first order for all heating oil orders over 900 litres and lubricant orders worth over £200.

"To receive the discount, all customers have to do is quote CF10 when making their order. The first five lucky customers quoting CF10 will receive a £25 discount," said staff member Kate Watts.

"We've a local team with great experience who can offer help and advice on all manner of fuel-related inquiries.

"We're committed to continuing the Watson tradition of supplying quality products and a personal, friendly and professional service to customers throughout south Wales."

To claim the discount, call 029 2077 9875 before January 31, 2010.

Carrie opens wildlife garden in Colwinston after cycle marathon

LEFT: Carrie Williams (left) officially opens the new wildlife garden at Colwinston Playgroup

IN MAY, Carrie Williams from the Vale village of Sutton completed a two day 140-mile marathon cycle ride from Cowbridge to Coventry to raise money for a local playgroup.

On November 15 Carrie, who raised an impressive £1,700, opened the new wildlife garden at Colwinston Playgroup.

Carrie, whose daughter Katie attends the group, said:

"The garden was built using the funds from the sponsored bike ride to Coventry.

"The project received further funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales which was funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

"The funding is administered by Creative Rural Communities of the Vale Council's Rural Regeneration."

Carrie chose Coventry as her destination because that is where her mother, father and sister live.

On the first day of the ride she covered 85 miles in five hours, 35 minutes, and on the second 60 miles in four hours, 40 minutes.

A spokeswoman for Colwinston Playgroup said:

"The group would like to thank Carrie for all her efforts, and Jane from Creative Rural Communities for all her support.

"Also special thanks go to Rhod from Tirlun Ltd for the garden design and Kevin Raymond, a stonemason, whose generosity contributed greatly towards to the project."

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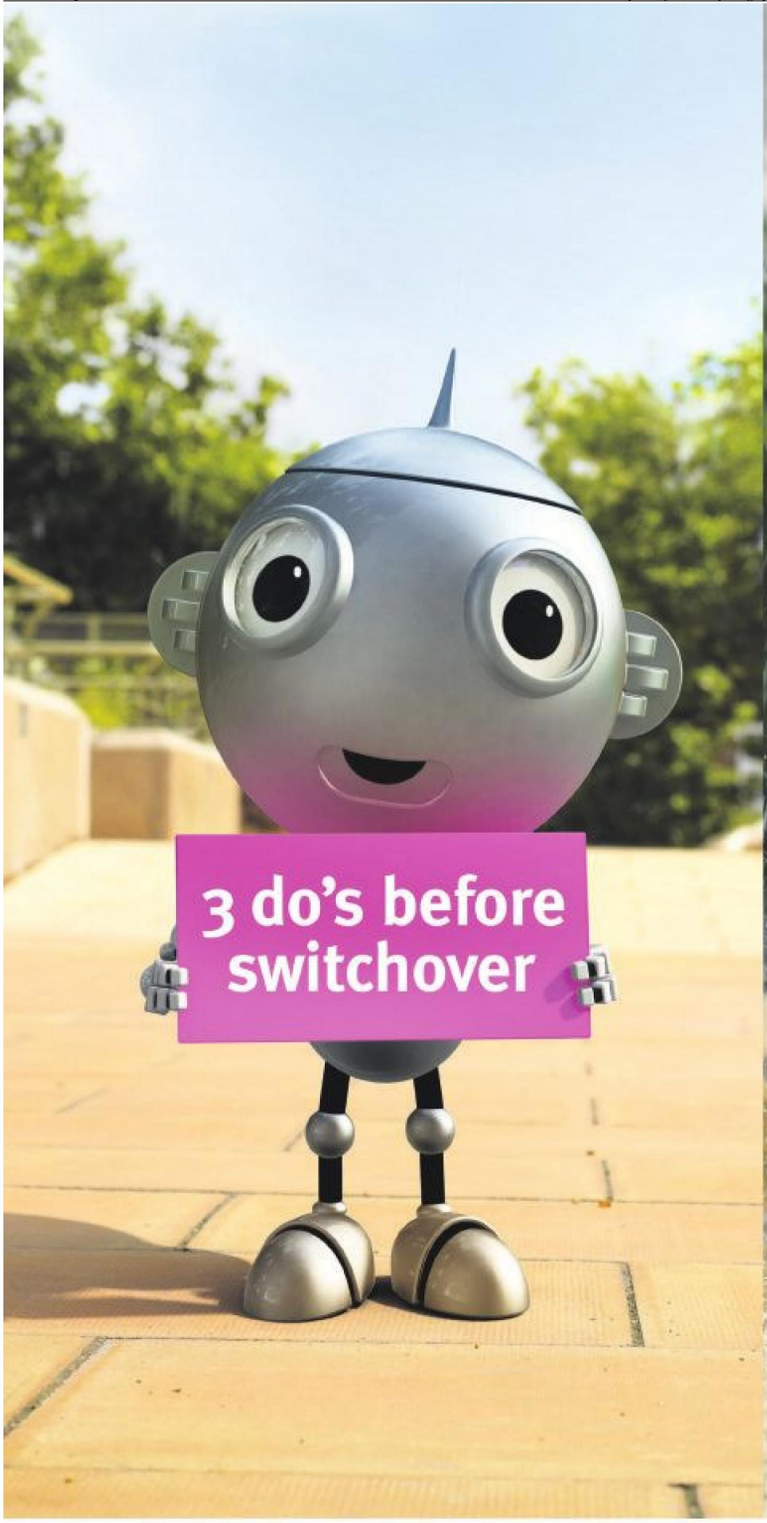

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Fines to bring message home?

YET again, there has been another letter in The GEM about dog fouling – and the owners doing nothing to clear it.

We are having this problem around Colwinston village and on our playing field, which is used by our local school, also our pre-school playgroup.

Having talked about this horrible subject with some of my senior citizen friends, we have come to the conclusion that if one or two owners were to find themselves reported and a fine of £1,000 ensued, it might bring home to people how serious this problem is.

CJ Hawkins, Colwinston

Oriana concert

ORIANA ladies choir is giving a concert of Christmas carols and readings at Llanblethian Church on December 5, at 7pm. Telephone 01446 772047 for details.

Call for planning brief on Cowbridge health centre

COWBRIDGE Town Council's planning committee has called for a planning brief to be prepared for proposals on the Cowbridge Health Centre.

The centre, which is owned by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board, is being replaced. An application has been received for a change of use to financial and professional services in the building. The site lies within a conservation area inside the grounds of Old Hall.

Town councillors are concerned that the open green land around the health centre, which is owned by the board, should remain available for public use and is not fenced off.

The council has lodged no objections to the change of use, but would like a planning brief prepared because the site is so important.

Indian showcase first of its kind in Wales

THE Vale Assembly member, Jane Hutt, attended the recent India Showcase at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, to promote tourism and holiday opportunities in India.

"The event was the first of its kind in Wales and as well as informative exhibits on holidaying in India, there was also plenty of tasty Indian snacks on offer for the public to enjoy!" the AM observed.

IN BRIEF

COWBRIDGE with Llanblethian Town Council has agreed to allow the public telephone to be removed from the telephone kiosk in Llanblethian, so that the red kiosk can be taken over by a local community group.

The box is listed and cannot be removed.

HOLES in the churchyard at Holy Cross are to be filled in and rubble removed.

There has been no further evidence of rat infestation.

Bridgend AM's advice surgeries

CARWYN JONES AM, the Assembly Member for Bridgend, will hold constituency surgeries as follows on December 4:

Bryntirion OCLP Club (1.30pm-2.15pm); Laleston, The Oystercatcher (2.30pm-3.15pm); Broadlands, Llangewydd Arms (3.30pm-4pm);

The AM can be contacted at his Constituency Office, Emlyn House, 36 Caroline Street, Bridgend, CF31 1DQ; telephone: 01656 664320; fax 01656 669349; or residents can email ***Carwyn.jones@wales.gov.uk.***

Maddie (and her ponies) are champs!

A six-year-old pupil at Pendoylan Primary School, Maddie Dalley, was a big success at the Wales and Border Counties annual awards evening in the Village Hotel, Coryton.

Maddie was awarded a trophy, sash and rosette as the 2009 points champion in the lead rein show pony category on her Welsh part bred - ***Redvale Little Mermaid*****.**

By the time she returned to her seat, she was called up again to accept another trophy, sash and rosette for being the 2009 points champion in the lead rein M&M category on her Welsh Section A - ***Dijkzicht Boris*****.**

Her father Neil said: "Maddie was overwhelmed by the response from the audience".

Maddie is pictured with her trophies, sash, and rosettes.

VOLUNTEER SURGERIES

THE Volunteer Bureau will hold outreach surgeries to offer advice and information on the 700+ different volunteering opportunities, as follows:

Penarth Leisure Centre, 1.30pm-3.30pm, Saturday, November 28; Cowbridge Library,. 12pm-2pm, Wednesday, December 2.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

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Director John Madge said: "We endeavour to stay competitive by doing our best to consistently offer a high level of service. We have been established over 21 years, the same company with the same name."

Fellow director Nick Madge added: "The majority of our work comes from recommendations, and we would therefore like to thank all our customers past and present for supporting Dinas Windows and hope they will continue to do so in the future.

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FIRST COUPLE MOVE INTO A NEW HOME AT HENSOL CASTLE PARK

AN exclusive new residential development based at Hensol Castle Park, which neighbours the Vale Hotel, golf, spa and leisure facility, has welcomed its first residents into their stunning new apartment.

The proud owners of No 1 Talbot House are Malcolm and Diane Sanders, originally from Penllyn, near Cowbridge. They were the first to complete and have now moved into their new three-bedroom apartment in the multi-million pound residential scheme.

The couple, who were looking to downsize from their current home, were attracted by the size, quality and high specification and finish of the apartments at Hensol Castle Park, as well as its unique location.

With it, says Mr Sanders, is a home that will create an easy, happy and stress-free lifestyle.

"We had been looking for nearly four years, for something unique which would suit my wife and I and that our daughter, who is studying at university, can have as her base as well. The quality of these properties is what attracted us – they are very spacious, are obviously in a great location, plus the beautiful finishes inside the apartment were just what we were looking for.

"We are very excited about moving in and starting a new life here. We loved the fact that each apartment is uniquely designed and being based here means we are only 20 minutes from the capital."

Mr Sanders is a keen golfer and the fact that the golf, spa and leisure facilities of the Vale Resort are in walking distance, was a bonus.

"We will be making the most of this great location, you couldn't really ask for more in terms of a lifestyle choice."

The luxury 58-apartment scheme is part of the multi-million pound redevelopment of the grade one listed 17th Century Hensol Castle and its grounds into one of the most prestigious boutique hotel, spa and residential schemes in Wales.

Left to right: Stephen Leeke, Malcolm Sanders, Julie Turner (back), Hannah Sanders, Diane Sanders.

Set within 150 acres of spectacular and historical parkland, phase two of the apartments was launched this autumn, with phase one already completely sold. A total of 18 apartments have now been sold since the launch this summer.

The Hensol Castle Park development, costing an estimated £35m, will see the stunning Hensol Castle transformed into a 50-bed exclusive five-star hotel with an adjoining residential spa, as well as the conversion of a number of buildings within the grounds into of 58 spacious design-led apartments.

The scheme is being developed and released by the owners of the neighbouring Vale Resort, the Leekes Group – an independent, family-run group of leisure and retail businesses owned by group chairman, Gerald Leeke.

Managing director of the Vale Resort and the new Hensol Castle Park, Stephen Leeke, personally handed over the keys to the scheme's first occupiers. He said: "We are delighted to welcome Mr and Mrs Sanders – our very first home-owners to the Hensol Castle Park scheme and wish them a very happy and comfortable life in their new home.

"The scheme has progressed at a pace and we are very pleased by the sales to date, given how the market has been.

Prices start from £290,000 up to £485,000.

Local pupils take part in anti-bullying workshops

CHILDREN from Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan recently took part in interactive workshops to learn more about bullying and its effect on individuals.

The Respect Tour roadshow highlighted collaboration between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Anti- Bullying Network, as part of National Anti-bullying Week.

Bridgend and Barry pupils from primary and secondary schools, teachers, support staff and local education authority professionals all took part in the workshops.

These were led by charities and organisations supporting the Assembly Government project, including Children in Wales; Swansea Children Matters, the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, and the Bridgend Cyber-bullying Bus.

Pupils were challenged about their own behaviour in relation to bullying and given guidance on how to tackle bullying if they experienced it, or saw somebody else as a victim.

Lynda Mattravers, school councillor at Ynysawdre Comprehensive School praised the roadshow, saying: "Bullying is a constantly evolving issue. At our school we have clear anti-bullying policies in place, thanks to guidance from the Assembly.

"However, it's really useful to have an interactive day like this, where we can familiarise ourselves once again with the issues and learn about new practices to stop bullying.

"The children and young people can really get involved – it makes all the difference.

"The workshops I think are a huge success. Bullying is simply unacceptable, and we can never become complacent."

Catherine Jones (15), from Ynysawdre Comprehensive School, Bridgend, said: "I really enjoyed getting involved in the anti-bullying workshops.

"They were really informative, and as a member of the school council, I'm looking forward to taking what we've learnt back into the school."

The Minister for Children and Education, Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale, commented: "No matter how hard we work to tackle bullying, it is still a problem that some individuals have to face every day.

"Eradicating bullying in all its forms is our goal for the Welsh Assembly Government, and I thank the Welsh Anti-Bullying Network for their support to help achieve this."

WI carol service

A CHRISTMAS carol service will be held by Barry WI, at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, on Friday, December 18, at 7.30pm, with Barry Brass Band. All are welcome.

For further details, contact the secretary on 01446 410139.

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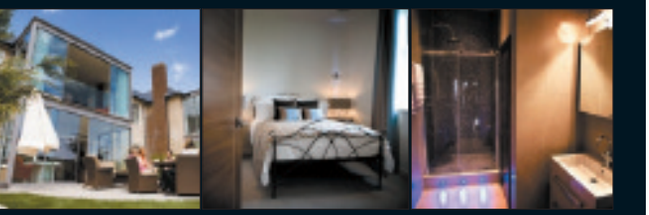

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BRAND-NEW BOXING CLUB OPENS ITS DOORS TO BRIDGEND AND THE VALE

TWO former Welsh boxing champions were on hand last week to open Bridgend's first boxing club.

Nicky Piper and Colin Jones came along to see the extensive training facilities at the Bridgend Boxing Club, facilities made possible by the financial support of Mrs Glenda Hegarty of Computer Bridgend Ltd (CBL), who joined up with David East, a former Chief Constable of South Wales Police, and now the president of the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association.

The level of equipment is such that the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association (WABA) is sending its elite squad to train there every Sunday, under Colin Jones, who is now a national coach.

The club, which is at Ewenny Road, Ogmore, on the site of the former Volvo showrooms, hopes to attract aspiring boxers from a wide area.

The Bridgend Boxing Club actually lies within the boundary of the Vale Council, and the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Emlyn Williams, was an interested spectator.

He told The GEM that he was "privileged" to be invited to the official opening of the club.

He continued: "I was delighted to receive a very warm welcome on my arrival from Mr David East, QPM, LLB, the president of the club.

"I would like to congratulate all those who have been involved. What an achievement; they must have all felt very proud and satisfied with their efforts on the opening night."

He thanked Nicky Piper and Colin Jones, for the way that they are both putting their experience into teaching young boxers.

He added: "I watched the training in the new ring and it must have been very rewarding for all to hear the youngsters (as I did), asking how they could join the club."

ABOVE: Mark Canning of the Bridgend Boxing Club with members of the visiting Maesteg ABC, including coach Anthony Evans and Allyn Richards, assistant coach.

David East (right) welcoming the deputy mayor and consort of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Colin and Mrs Gloria Teesdale, and the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Emlyn Williams.

ABOVE: The winner of first prize in the raffle – Two nights for two people at the Radisson Mayfair Hotel, plus dinner for two people at London's Hard Rock Café – was Paul Rogers, a supporter of Bridgend Boxing Club, pictured with Coun Teesdale and Nick Hegarty.

ABOVE: Young boxers try out the punch bags.

ABOVE: Mrs Glenda Hegarty with two Welsh World champions, Nicky Piper and Colin Jones.

RIGHT: David East taking it on the chin from eight-year-old twins from visiting Maesteg ABC, Jay and Jordon Richards.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

LEFT: About to cut the tape at the opening ceremony is Nicky Piper with (left to right): Mrs. Glenda Hegarty, David East, Coun Emlyn Williams, Coun Colin and Mrs Gloria Teesdale.

Mystery huntsman is identified!

ABOVE: Mrs Heather March, of Llantwit Major, has contacted The GEM to say that the mystery huntsman picture in last week's GEM was that of Captain Homfray, and it was taken in the Penllyn area in around 1950.

OLIVER! ANOTHER HIT FOR ST CYRES SCHOOL!

AUDIENCES were delighted during November with the latest St Cyres School production *Oliver!*

This musical extravaganza, packed with lively and dramatic singing, along with some first class acting, was performed in the school over two nights.

St Cyres School has a strong tradition of excellent music and drama productions, and this year was no exception.

The resounding success was the result of carefully nurtured talents and an outstanding commitment from all the staff and pupils.

In the leading roles, Zhane Bartlett played Oliver Twist alongside Elliott Thorne, who played Fagin. Emily Thorne played Nancy and Josh Davey-Stewart played The Artful Dodger.

However, as with all productions, it was a team effort, which included a cast from year-7 through to year-12 – and a host of backstage technicians.

The production was a memorable experience for all those involved and had tremendous backing from staff and pupils who have worked on this production for many months.

In particular, a special thank you must go to director Mrs Amanda Sweet, musical director Mrs Becky Fowler Thomas, and assistant musical director, Mr Richard Hopkin, for making these opportunities available to pupils. **PL**

Lively Barney loves his off-lead gallop!

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre

THIS WEEK: "Barney is a lovely dog and lots of fun, says a centre spokeswoman.

"He loves his off-lead gallops around the field, and is also very good on the lead. He gets on with other similar sized dogs, and would benefit from living with another dog for company.

"He's suitable with children aged eight years and over, but he's not suitable to live with cats.

"We have several greyhounds looking for homes at the moment, so if you would love a leggy friend, please come and visit!" a spokeswoman adds.

For more information on Barney or any of the other dogs who are looking for a good home, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend or phone on 01656 725219. Barney and some of his friends are on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk (click on Rehoming).

Who will give Barney a home? (but no cats, please!)

Fairtrade in Dinas

RESIDENTS from the Dinas Powys area supported a recent Fairtrade shopping evening by spending more than £700 on fairly traded goods.

The local Fairtrade group has recently submitted an application to the Fairtrade Foundation in London for Fairtrade village status, and is currently awaiting a decision.

Cygnet dies from injuries after dog attack at the Knap Lake

A cygnet in the Knap Lake was attacked by a dog on Wednesday, November 18, and despite receiving specialist treatment, he died later.

A spokeswoman for Swan Rescue South Wales said: "On the Wednesday we got a call to say a dog had attacked a swan at the Knap lake – it turned out to be a young cygnet.

"Luckily, although we were hours away, we were able to call on Steve our volunteer, who lives locally, and he was able to pick up the traumatised cygnet in a matter of minutes.

"The following day, we took him to Swindon for specialist treatment but sadly he died overnight."

The spokeswoman added that Swan Rescue South Wales has contacted the Vale Council to inform it of the attack, which had clearly emphasised the need for owners to keep dogs on a lead.

Swan Rescue South Wales can be contacted on 07802 472788 if someone sees a swan in distress.

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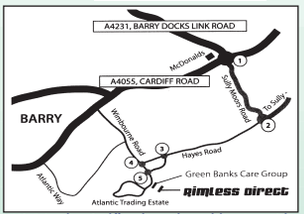

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A Christmas Look at Llantwit Major

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

'Shopping in Llantwit's close community is an altogether more friendly and civilised experience'

THE centrepiece of Llantwit Major's Christmas celebrations will be the switching on of the decorative lights on Saturday, December 5.

This eagerly-anticipated ceremony will be the culmination of a collaboration this year between the town council and the chamber of trade to organise the lights.

The events get under way from about 2pm, when Father Christmas arrives in his grotto at the Town Hall.

There is also a funfair in the adjoining car park for the children to enjoy.

A craft fayre and farmers' market takes place in the precinct, where entertainment starts at 2.30pm, organised by Major Music and Stage Door 1. There will also be some community carol singing.

At 5.10pm, Father Christmas will take part in a lantern parade from the town hall to the precinct, and it is hoped that many local residents and children will turn up with their lanterns. There will be a prize for the best child's lantern. The lights will be switched on at 5.30pm in a ceremony conducted by the Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Russell Downe.

Llantwit traders hope that the events of the afternoon will draw in a substantial crowd who will boost trade in the town.

Chamber secretary Janet Moisan said that it had been a difficult year because of the credit crunch, but businesses were hopeful of a much more prosperous 2010 because of the 'Metrix bounce'.

"We hope that the arrival of thousands more people to live in the area will stimulate new businesses, who have previously ignored Llantwit Major, to take another look and set up shop in the town," she commented.

"That will give a wonderful boost to traders and residents alike."

One of the new shopkeepers in the town this year is Stuart Sloan who took over his mother's clothing shop in the precinct when she retired.

He is optimistic about the future: "Llantwit, like other smaller towns, has advantages over big city centres and shopping malls. Our main asset is accessibility, with the shops being a few yards from one of the town's two free car parks.

"We also have good rail connections and are close to the railway station."

Mr Sloan said that Llantwit Major offered a personal service to shoppers and a very friendly atmosphere – which often contrasted with the hustle and bustle of large shops, where staff are too busy to take any interest in an individual shopper.

"We draw people from outside Llantwit anyway," he explained. "People come in from places like Rhoose, St Athan and even Barry and Sully. They like the town's friendliness and they are also impressed by the number of restaurants and pubs serving good food at affordable prices. Eating is a big part of shopping these days."

Mr Sloan added that other visitors to the shops include the walkers and tourists drawn to Llantwit by its historical heritage and coastline.

Llantwit has a surprising range of shops selling many items suitable for Christmas presents – including clothing, scarves, bags, slippers, jewellery, perfume, toiletries, chocolates, books and flowers.

There are also shops selling bric-a-brac, candles, toys and games.

Prices tend to be very competitive as the shops have lower overheads than others in larger centres.

Janet pointed out: "We can offer shoppers an alternative to the overheated, overcrowded stores, which become almost unbearable as Christmas approaches.

"Shopping in Llantwit Major is an altogether more civilised experience and what better way to end the day than with a nice cappuccino, meal or glass of wine!" she added.

The Zenergy shop has many delights!

ZENERGY is an impressive new shop, selling a wide range of gifts and accessories, including: exclusive costume jewellery; crystals; incense and esoteric gifts; accessories for children and teens; and a great range of stocking fillers and gift ideas.

There is also an extensive range of beads to fit all the major brands of bead charm bracelets.

But Zenergy offers a further surprise – a drop-in psychic reading service! The business is owned by Ant Edwards, a renowned psychic intuitive coach, who has returned to Llantwit Major after owning a shop here 10 years ago.

Ant said: "It was always my intention to come back and open a shop that offered something unique, so I have combined my psychic services with a great range of products to suit all ages.

"Llantwit Major is a beautiful town, with traditional buildings and lots of small shops that offer something different for customers."

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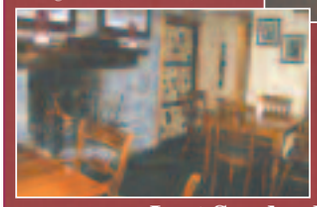

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Welcome to the new owners!

HAVING been an 'infrequent' regular to the Blacksmith's Arms over the years, my husband and I were pleasantly surprised last weekend.

It has a new landlord/manager, a really pleasant enthusiastic Irishman, who made it his business to welcome everyone to the pub with a chat and a pat on the back.

Even our puppy was welcomed through the door!

It would be fabulous if the community can embrace the vigour of this new management and bring the pub back into the hub of the village.

I think maybe the secret to the success of the Blacksmiths may have been found! Welcome!

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BEN'S BARBERS offer a range of services in their new expanded shop at Llantwit Major: hairstyling – patterns – hot towel wet shaves.

Open: Monday-Friday (9am-5.30pm) and Saturday (8.30am-4pm). Even VIP nights are catered for, by appointment (5pm-8pm).

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Cowbridge still has problem with anti-social behaviour

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour continues to dominate the crime and disorder figures for Cowbridge.

Insp Mark Taylor has told Cowbridge Town Council that in October, officers dealt with nine incidents out of a total of 24 reported for the month.

There were also four assaults, five thefts from motor vehicles, two drugs-related incidents, two thefts and two criminal damage to vehicles.

But there were no burglaries of any kind, and no car thefts during the month. Insp Taylor had looked into the figures and said nothing was causing him concern. He said that two of the assaults were related to the same person and pointed out that Cowbridge was not a violent town.

Some builders' vans in the town have been broken into, and police have increased patrols and would be keeping a close watch on this in the run-up to Christmas.

He pointed out that October included Halloween, and the anti-social behaviour figures reflected any incidents connected with that.

"But we had a good celebration in the Vale," he said. "Force-wide, the number of incidents were down and in the whole of the Vale there were only 16 incidents related loosely to Halloween."

Police had put every available officer and PCSO out on the streets and they patrolled areas where problems were expected.

"We had a lot of people out working and that's reflected in the results. We did the same on bonfire night.

"We had people at the tennis courts and children's play parks. They are on our radar and we are monitoring them very carefully."

He said that he had put in a bid for funding for extra officers over Christmas, especially on Saturdays, to police the shopping centres and deter shoplifters and pick pockets.

He said that even if funding was not available, he would ensure high profile policing by changing shift patterns.

He was thanked by Mayor Jon Harris for the way in which the Remembrance Sunday parade was policed.

Insp Taylor replied that it was a pleasure to help the community on these occasions and to have support from the town council.

Christmas lights for town hall

NEW Christmas lights are being purchased to go on top of Cowbridge Town Hall.

Clerk Andrew Davies told Cowbridge town councillors that when the contractors collected the lights from storage, they found that the ones for the hall were defunct.

The bulb holders would not work.

He has received a £400 quotation to replace the coloured lights with eight five-metre lengths of low energy icicle lights, which will be cheaper to run.

He said that the work would be completed in time for Sunday's switching-on ceremony. *Councillors then gave the go-ahead.*

Muzz Racing set for huge season

COWBRIDGE motorsports team Muzz Racing is set for the biggest season in its history next year, competing in three Championships at the highest level of British motorsport.

Already firmly established as a successful team, 2010 will see local racers take on the Ginetta Junior Championship, Ginetta G50 Cup and the prestigious British GT Sports Car Championship.

Race team owner and engineer, Stef 'Muzz' Matuszak said: "It's exciting times for the team. We have been pushing forwards for the last couple of years now, and it's paid off for us, returning two national championships in the last two seasons, putting us right up there with the best in British motorsport. We are certainly flying the flag for Welsh Racing!"

All three championships visit some of the most well-known and historic racing circuits in the UK, such as Silverstone, Donnington Park, and Brands Hatch with the GT Championship taking the team to the famous Magny-Cours, home of the French F1 Grand Prix.

The team also boasts Welsh representation from two of its three drivers, the junior events being contested by 16-year-old Cardiff based racer Jake Rattenbury and the new 3.5litre 300bhp British GT car being partly driven by Cowbridge-based Gary Simms.

Pre-season testing begins for the team early next month, when they travel to the Spanish circuits of Jerez and Barcelona.

Mayor holds book fayre in Bridgend

THE Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Jeff Tildesley, will hold a charity book fayre in the foyer of the Civic Offices tomorrow (November 27) and on Monday, November 30, from 10am-4pm.

"I am an avid reader myself, so this seems the perfect way to raise money for our chosen charities while also encouraging people in the borough to enjoy a good book. I hope to see many people browsing the selection on offer – I know I will be," the Mayor said.

Offering new and nearly new books, the fayre has been organised by Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Committee to raise funds for the 2009/10 local charities: Yellow Wales, Glaze Prostate Charity Wales and The Stroke Association.

For more information, contact Mari on 01656 664105 or Huw on 01656 654946.

Name change for Vale women's group

VALE Women's Aid has been relaunched by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

From now on, it will be known as *Atal y Fro* – Vale Prevention.

The organisation has decided that if it is to break the cycle of domestic violence, it needs to tackle the problem within the whole family, involving partners and fathers, as part of a mission to help families break the cycle of domestic violence.

The organisation is developing an early intervention programme using a model that worked in New Zealand.

It also has an education programme called 'Breaking the Cycle' which has been piloted at Barry Comprehensive School.

Kay Quinn, director, said that the emphasis will be on prevention and the aim is to "break the silence on domestic violence".

IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL AT EAGLESWELL PRIMARY

Llantwit pupils tap into Gambia appeal

ON Friday, November 13 at St Donat's Castle, Eagleswell Primary School held its final fundraiser for its 'Water for the Gambia Appeal' – a project to build a new well and storage tank at Brufut School in The Gambia.

Deputy headteacher Kevin Archard reported: "In the stunning surroundings of St Donat's Castle, a packed hall of guests enjoyed an African-themed evening. Following a three-course African meal, the students of Atlantic College entertained the gathering with a spectacular song, dance and a fashion show designed to give guests a flavour of West Africa.

"The evening culminated in dancing to the sound of Llantwit Major's rock 'n' roll icons, 'The Love Handels' who celebrate their 10th anniversary this year. The event was successful beyond the expectations of the organisers, with more than £2,000 raised taking the appeal's grand total to over £5,000.

"Eagleswell Primary School would like to extend its grateful thanks to everyone connected with the event; Atlantic College staff, students and catering staff, local businesses that donated raffle prizes, the band who waived their fee, the parents and their friends who supported the evening .

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

COMMUNITY SPIRIT IS THE KEY FACTOR AS RHOOSE LOOKS FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

by PHILIP IRWIN

LITTLE by little, and almost unnoticed, the 'village' of Rhoose has grown so much over the last 15 years that it should really be described as a small town.

Its population is now estimated at around 7,000, which certainly takes it way past the modest numbers normally associated with a rural village.

However, Rhoose has only two Vale councillors, and no town council, and some residents feel that the community is under-represented compared to, for instance, Cowbridge (three Vale councillors) and Dinas Powys (four).

For many years, Rhoose probably suffered from being seen as the village that was on the fringes of the airport. It still is, of course, and only last year, when on my way to fly from Cardiff Airport, I took the train from Bridgend, and then the shuttle bus from Rhoose, it was possible to still think of it as just a signpost on the way to foreign climes.

However, it is far more than that, and residents made their choice to live there because of its uniquely attractive surroundings, on the plateau that looks out over the Bristol Channel, and because of the genuine air of a rural village community that still exists.

The large turnout on Remembrance Sunday, which was featured in The GEM, is testament to its community spirit.

This was confirmed by Coun Jeff James, a long-standing councillor for Rhoose. He told The GEM: "We had 150 in the parade, and more than 200 at the service. There was also a contingent of serving Armed Forces personnel."

He continued: "I do think that the number of organisations and self-help groups in Rhoose illustrate what is good about the community and its spirit.

"They give great help to the local school as well. Add to that the beautiful coastline, and it makes Rhoose a great place to live!"

Rhoose businesses do their bit to keep the community vibrant, and many people find that there is little need to trek to the out-of-town stores, as the local traders are well tuned in to their needs.

Another landmark business in the area is the Egerton Grey Hotel, and when The GEM called, owner Richard Morgan-Pryce was just running through his annual check-list of films that had been filmed there – and famous faces who had stayed.

There is often a time lag, of course. Only two weeks ago, the hotel featured in the antiques show *Flog It!* – although it was early this year that the filming took place.

The final episode of the last season of *Belonging* was also filmed at the Egerton and in 2010 it should feature on the big screen, as *Mister Nice*, a movie based on the life of Kenfig Hill-born drug dealer Howard Marks, has been filming there.

Cast and crew stayed at the hotel for several days while key scenes in the film were shot.

Away from the silver screen, a certain David Cameron has also stayed there.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

LEFT: Tracey Prince and Laura Whitley of The Velvet Touch have an impressive selection of bath bombs, soaps, oils and gift sets, all beautifully wrapped for your Christmas stocking!

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If you have never used a gym before, don't be intimidated, as our staff are on hand to show you exactly what to do and how the equipment works.

We give every new member a free health assessment and individual programme to follow.

We have a variety of memberships – starting from £25 for students.

Come down and see us and make new friends, all with the same aim – having fun and getting fit.

For further details, contact Jennie on 01446 710386.

Have a Velvet Christmas!

THE Velvet Touch wishes all our clients a very Merry Christmas, and if you haven't booked Christmas appointments, now is the time to do it!

We have special offers for December, which also includes our popular Microdermabrasion, which helps to reduce blocked pores, scarring, dry skin etc., leaving your skin with a healthy glow.

If you are stuck for Christmas ideas, we have a selection of gift packs, fashion jewellery and accessories, stocking fillers, including bath bombs, and also a number of Christmas packages for the lady or man in your life and, of course, gift vouchers.

We will have extended opening hours over Christmas, so contact The Velvet Touch on 01446 713330.

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

Personal service is what counts when it comes to local shopping

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16) LOCAL traders, of course, have a vital role to play in any community, as was recognised when a Rhoose shop assistant recently received a huge accolade.

Annette Harrison, who works at the Spar store, was awarded the title of 'Sales Assistant of the Year' – recognising how someone in a shop can do far more for their customers than just take their money.

Her manager at the Rhoose Spar, Chris David, said the award was totally deserved.

Spar super assistant Annette Harrison.

He explained: "She is so helpful to customers. If an elderly person arrives on a scooter, she will help them in and go round to help as they shop."

Shops can so often help 'glue' their community together, by keeping track of regular customers and giving isolated people a precious social contact.

Church communities play a major role in building community spirit in the village. This Sunday, there will be an advent carol service at 6pm at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry.

There will be a 'mini Christmas fayre' at Rhoose Community Hall on Saturday, December 12, from noon until 5pm.

A Taize Service will take place at 6pm on Sunday, December 13, at 6pm, while on December 20 (at 9.45am) there will be a Sunday school Nativity at St Peter's, Rhoose.

Also playing a strong role in the community is Rhoose Lifeguard Club, and the club holds its annual carol service in the Stewart Road Community Hall on Friday, December 18.

This event starts at 6.30pm and will be in aid of the NSPCC children's charity.

Getting ready for Christmas!

ABOVE: Richard Morgan-Pryce, of Egerton Grey, alongside their Christmas tree.

Community bingo

RHOOSE Community Hall management committee is holding an afternoon bingo session at the hall in Stewart Road (November 28), at 2.30pm. All welcome.

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Rhws pupils' pyjama party with a difference for Children in Need

RECEPTION CLASS.

PUPILS at Rhws Primary School had 'the day of their dreams' while raising funds for Children in Need.

Children and staff wore a 'just got up' look by coming to school dressed in their pyjamas.

Children also paid for 'teacher dares', with each teacher performing the favourites at the end of the day.

"The school had great fun and raised almost £500 for Children in Need!" a spokesperson reported.

LEFT: The year-2 boys gave a big thumbs-up to both the pyjama party, and also raising money for Children in Need.

YEAR-3.

CLASS 4H.

Class 1S.

CLASS 1B.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Country crafts

A COUNTRY craft and gift fair will be held this Saturday, November 28, at Old Hall, Westgate, Cowbridge, 10am-4pm.

Valeways walk

SUNDAY, November 29, 2pm, Aviation walk. Start at Porthkerry Park Café car park, Barry.

Telephone Valeways office on 01446 749000 for further information.

Colwinston fayre

A CHRISTMAS fayre is being held at Colwinston Village Hall on Monday, November 30, from 7pm.

Contact Emma on 01656 750606 or info@emma-halldesigns.co.uk for details.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

UP THE SAVAGE HILL TO THE CATHEDRAL OF THE FOREST

RECENTLY, in an all-male walk, three likely lads joined Roger Hill at Monmouth on an overcast morning;

Monmouth or Trefynwy (town on the Monnow) is a border town where the rivers Wye and Monnow meet and where Henry V, who later went on to win the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, was born.

Leaving from just below the magnificent 13th century stone-gated bridge that has now been pedestrianised since the old cattle market was demolished and a second bridge built over the Monnow, they crossed the recreation field and took the underpass to eventually cross the River Wye by way of the stone bridge.

As they tramped the meadows beside the River Wye, a fine drizzle set in that accompanied them all the way to Lower Redbrook.

The first brass in this country was made in Tintern, but in 1566 wire-making followed with mills situated on tributaries of the lower Wye valley including Redbrook.

A copper works was established by 1691 and the furnace in Redbrook used coke for smelting iron ore from the Forest of Dean by 1716. In fact, the copper industry only failed when a large works was built at Swansea.

Leaving the river behind to climb up a flight of steps, the group picked up a track which led them into a broad valley past Glyn Farm.

The autumnal colours that dressed the trees more than made up for the dismal weather conditions and they followed the contours of the hillside to meet up with a metalled road.

As they climbed gradually up through the valley, the weather started to clear and the majestic tower of the church in Newland came into view in the distance.

A short but steep climb up the aptly-named Savage Hill saw them emerging into Newland, where the village is dominated by the tall ornate towered 13th century All Saints Church, described as the 'Cathedral of the Forest'.

Within the church is an old brass engraving known as the 'Miner's Brass' – showing a Forest miner with a candle in his mouth, pick-axe in his hand and a hod.

The churchyard made an apt stop for lunch, as they resisted the urge to sample the delights of the Ostrich Inn, deriving from the ostrich emblem used by the Probyns, local landowners from previous times.

Gathered around the church are the almshouses founded by a London haberdasher in the 1500s.

Leaving the village, a cold penetrating wind swept over them as they crossed fields before reaching shelter in woodland.

Emerging at Upper Redbrook, they followed Offa's Dyke path climbing gradually to reach the National Trust picnic site and view point at the Kymin 840-feet above sea level.

At the Kymin stands the Naval Temple built in 1800, a Georgian structure commemorating 16 Admirals of the British navy and also the Round House – painted white so it is a well-known landmark for miles around.

This Georgian banqueting house, built in 1794, was used by the local gentry and its claim to fame is that Horatio Nelson and Lady Hamilton had breakfast there in 1802.

There are glorious views to be had over Monmouth and across to Sugar Loaf Mountain and the Black Mountains beyond and these were enjoyed while the group stopped for refreshment, before taking the steep descent through Garth Wood and retracing their steps back to Monmouth town.

On November 28, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile moderate walk at Peterston and Hensol; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On November 29, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a seven-mile mod/hard walk at Waun Fach; contact Peter on 029 2070 6545.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Driftwood cut

AN exhibition at Coed Hills Rural Artspace runs until January 8, and includes unusual paintings by Lynette Margerison.

'Conversations with the Earth part 2 Down on the Beach', will be open from 11am-3pm.

The paintings have been made over the past two years on pieces of driftwood thrown up on Southerndown beach.

"They are a response to the mixture of emotions thrown up by the enormity of the ecological and human challenge facing my family and families all over the world," the artist says.

Valeways AGM

VALEWAYS will be holding their annual general meeting, on Tuesday, December 15, at YMCA Hub, Court Road, barry, from 3pm-4.30pm.

To attend, telephone their office on 01446 749000 or email carolyn@valeways.org.uk no later than Tuesday, December 8.

The sisters who light up the sky!

KEEN members of the Astro Observers Group in Barry have not remained idle; summer months are never ideal for observing because of the short nights and because the Sun is never far below the horizon, but the dark long nights have returned and we have been busy.

Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters.

Recently, while observing with the group, I photographed the magnificent star cluster Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters. This is a group of closely related stars which are gravitationally bound to one another and have only recently formed – recent in astronomical terms of course, in reality they are several million years old.

Because of their youth, they shine brilliantly blue-white and the original cosmic gas and dust cloud from which they coalesced is still retained as nebulosity around the main stars of the group, as can be seen from the attached photograph.

The Pleiades are easy to observe and photograph, but need a wide field. A telescope like mine does have a sufficiently wide field and my canon-40D camera attached to the telescope offered ample range by virtue of its huge digital sensor. An astronomical camera on a long focus telescope would struggle to get this cluster in its field of view.

Pre-planned observing sessions are all too frequently cancelled because of our uncertain weather, therefore much of our observing happens with ad-hoc sessions which are called on the spur of the moment when clear skies are about – and they do frequently occur.

The ad-hoc sessions are shown on the day on the Cardiff Astronomical Society website on the home page, as well as the observing page, and those keen to observe should check the website on days which promise a clear night. Pre-planned sessions are also shown on the website.

The forthcoming months through winter into spring will bring spectacular deep sky objects into view and everyone is welcome to peer at them through our telescopes.

Regular keen observers receive a telephone call from me whenever an ad-hoc session is on, but I have now discontinued calling those on the observer's list who are seldom or never able to make the sessions.

For more information visit the website: www.cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk, or call me on 07855352147.

MARC DELANEY

A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Holton Road reinvents itself as business people realise their ambitions

A YEAR ago, the recession had hit Holton Road with a vengeance. The guillotine was hanging over Woolworths's workers – to fall in January – and a number of other businesses were forced to shut up shop.

Now, 12 months later, a new, optimistic picture is emerging – Holton Road is reinventing itself once more.

The Woolworths site has been taken over and new retailers have opened their doors.

As you can see from our Holton Road feature, the charge is being led by experienced entrepreneurs like Ferda of La Cucina and Faye Ruckley of Ruckleys, along with resilient individuals like photographer Mark Osman and Hydropowers' Lewis Prangley, who are determined to realise their dreams.

Faye told The GEM: "If stores get the right product at the right price people would still rather shop in Barry than go into Cardiff."

Do you really know what's on Holton Road? If not, read on!

TOP FESTIVE OFFERS FROM THE HAIR AND BEAUTY DEN

THE Hair and Beauty Den is a business that has so many things to offer!

● There's a fine selection of Christmas gift packs.

● The business has MAC make up packages, which include hair make-up and nails.

● Wedding packages are available, too.

● A selection of gift vouchers can be purchased for Christmas or any other special occasion.

● There are special offers on Diamond Days for the over-60s (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).

The Hair and Beauty Den is open six days a week, from Monday to Saturday, with special late nights on Thursday and Friday.

Clients are advised to book appointments early with the Christmas rush under way.

The staff said: "We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and happy New Year."

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

As big names move into Holton Road, business people see brighter future

ABOVE:
Ferda, Anthony and Anita will be giving Christmas shoppers a warm welcome in La Cucina.

TWO of Barry's most experienced business people are confident that as Wales emerges from recession, Holton Road has a bright future.

La Cucina is a stylish café that evokes the continental atmosphere of Paris or Barcelona.

For busy Christmas shoppers on Holton Road who want to stop off for a coffee and a bite to eat, it's the perfect haunt.

Ferda, the owner, said: "It doesn't surprise me that there are new businesses springing up locally. Recessions are well known for bringing out the entrepreneurial spirit.

"People who have been made redundant often seize the opportunity to do something they may have dreamed of doing for years."

Ferda has as inexpensive a menu as people could wish for – tea starts at £1.25, coffee £1.45 and breakfast £2.95. There's a huge range of paninis and meals all around just £4 - £5!

Ferda explained: "We've made everything as reasonably priced as we possibly could, as a concession to the present time."

Faye Ruckley, the owner of Ruckleys, the popular nursery equipment and baby shop, said that recent 'big name' arrivals in Holton Road had made a difference to how busy it was.

"In recent weeks, Tescos and The 99p Store have opened and the footfall has increased significantly.

"The last year has been tough, but we've responded by being as competitive with our products as possible.

"If stores get the right product at the right price people would still rather shop in Barry than go all the way into Cardiff."

This festive season, Faye is also bringing Father Christmas to Holton Road.

She explained: "Father Christmas will be in his grotto in the store on Saturdays and Sundays during December from 12noon to 4pm.

" It's £5 for a present, sweets and a balloon, and it's a great chance for people to bring a camera and capture the children's delight!"

Plants growing in your house?
NO, NOT 'THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS', IT'S HOLTON ROAD'S HYDROPOWER!

HYDROPOWER is quite simply one of the most original businesses to arrive in Barry for many years.

Owner Lewis Prangley is bringing the hydroponic concept to the town for the indoor gardener.

Approximately, 90 per cent of all cut fresh flowers purchased in the UK are hydroponically grown, and 65 per cent of fruit and veg from supermarkets are grown in hydroponic systems.

It sounds like something from The Day of the Triffids, but Lewis, a keen gardener since childhood, explained that the shop has everything to get people started in a fascinating pastime.

"Hydropower is the fastest growing supplier of hydroponic equipment – from grow tents to grow lights, extractor fans to carbon filters, and hydroponics systems to nutrients and boosters.

"A large volume of hydroponic food can be grown rapidly in a small area."

So what can people grow? – Well, vegetables, flowers, fruit, peppers, herbs, orchids and tropical plants.

In hydroponics, the water, nutrients and air needed by a plant to grow are mainlined directly to the rootball, freeing the plant to use its available energy in its upper leaf, fruit or flower development.

Lewis said: "We've got starter kits at £125, which would make a great Christmas present for gardeners, and the range goes up to all-singing, all-dancing deluxe kits."

For many people who get involved in hydroponics, there's a dual purpose, the joy of growing something allied to having an aesthetically pleasing feature in the house.

People are already travelling to the shop from all over south Wales, and Lewis added: "People don't have to be baffled by the science, just come in and we'll give you all the advice you need."

ABOVE:
Lewis Prangley, the owner of Hydropower, is a fount of knowledge about hydroponics, and his enthusiasm for the hobby shines through.

La Cucina Cafe
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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Business dreams come true on Holton Road!

ENTREPRENEURS in Barry town centre are fulfilling their personal dreams by bringing exciting new business ideas to Thompson Street and Holton Road.

It's more than 12 months since the credit crunch assailed Britain, but paradoxically, in adversity many people have seen it as their chance to forge a new future for themselves.

Still-Images
By Mark Osman
01446 420 165
07547 202 501
still-images.co.uk
Trading at Chris John Framing, 480 Thompson Street, Barry, CF62 4HD

Free Portrait Sitting With A Mounted 10 X 8 For £9.99.
Only one reduced price per sitting and offer will not be valid with further sittings unless with prior agreement

Mark Osman is an inspiring case in point. Mark explained: "In November, 2008, I was made redundant after 25 years with a firm in Cardiff.

"I was 47 and thought: 'What can I do now?' For 30 years I'd been an enthusiastic amateur photographer – I'd done the usual photos, holidays, family members and scenery.

"I'd also photographed my sister-in-law's wedding in Aberystwyth and that set me thinking about whether photography was a way forward for me."

On November 28, Mark's new company Still Images is due to open in Thompson Street.

"It is 'Still Images trading in Chris John Picture Framing'. Chris works at the rear of the property and I've renovated the shop area – the two businesses are complementary and it is very exciting."

To get to the point of opening his business, Mark has immersed himself in photography.

"To start, I bought a book by the south Wales photographer, Mark Cleghorn. I then managed to get a £2,500 government grant and when Mark saw some of my work he agreed to train me. After facing redundancy, I now have a new future."

A year ago, things appeared bleak for Mark, but the last 12 months have been a voyage of discovery.

"I found out a lot about the good nature of people. There are a lot of nice people out there – it's not just a cruel world."

Still Images on Thompson Street is the place to go if you want a wedding shoot done, a picture of a child's birthday or a family portrait.

"All people have to do is pop in to have a chat with me about what they want done," said Mark.

On the other side of Thompson Street, a young entrepreneur, Lee Grindlay, has set up the trendy Custom Ink Tattoo Studio.

Just four weeks ago, Lee held a grand opening with two members of the Cardiff Devils, Matt Miller and Matt Towe doing the honours.

Lee, aged 21, who used to work on the money exchange desk at Cardiff Airport, said: "Custom Ink is a studio with a difference. Rather than just doing 'book design tattoos', we invite people to bring in what they want on their body – whether it's an item or an idea they have.

"I can produce a sketch for someone to see. If it is something simple, we can go ahead straight away. If it is something more complicated, I can do a sketch for someone to come back and see, and then make an appointment to have it done."

Lee's clientele ranges from people in their late teens to early 60s.

Custom Ink Tattoo Studio's tattoos start at as little as £20, but the studio also sells a range of body jewellery, jumpers and t-shirts.

Lee added: "If someone wants to give a family member a gift that's a little bit different, we're doing special gift vouchers for Christmas."

On Holton Road, mother and son team Ann and Simon Jones have just opened Kiatu – Swahili for shoe – after relocating from Brixham in Devon.

Simon said: "We offer comfortable, stylish ranges. As an independent shop we have control over what we order, and it gives us a flexibility that the chains don't have."

Ann pointed out: "One of our most popular ranges is West County Clogs which come in a variety of bright colours.

"To illustrate how competitive we are, we have women's boots from £23 and practical work shoes from £20."

Kiatu also sells slippers, scarves and pashmina shawls.

Simon said: "We decided to relocate because Brixham is a place that seems to be living in the past and we believe Barry town centre will be thriving.

"The new Tesco store has already made a difference to the footfall in Holton Road.

"We've got family in Porthcawl and Blaenavon, and we're still by the sea in Barry, so it hasn't been a difficult move!"

Kiatu
If you love shoes
then visit us at:
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(Opposite the Wilkinson store)
Seasonal party shoes now in stock
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GOODWILL VISIT TO PORTHCAWL POLICE STATION BY MAYOR

Coun Jeff Tildesley, Mayor of Bridgend County borough Council, with the Porthcawl Neighbourhood Policing team, led by Inspector Alan James, Sector Commander, and Sgt Mike Davies, at Porthcawl Police Station.

UPON his inauguration as Mayor of Bridgend County borough, Coun Jeff Tildesley promised to visit all the manned police stations in the county borough as a way of thanking members of the South Wales Police Force for all their good work.

He dropped in to Porthcawl, having previously visited Maesteg and Aberkenfig police stations.

Porthcawl Police Station is surprisingly large and also houses the criminal justice department, which was also visited by the Major. In the photograph with the Mayor are Jeff Cooksley, head of the Police and Strategy Unit, Ed Lewis, Custody Inspector, and Mark Walters, Principal Officer.

Inspector Alan James and Coun Jeff Tildesley sampling the cells at Porthcawl Police Station.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN.

Coun Jeff Tildesley congratulating PCSO Carl Westgate on his initiative in running a project with local primary schools by giving pupils the chance to be junior PCSOs for a period.

Local optician's staff eye target for Operation Christmas Child

STAFF at a Bridgend opticians ensured that some disadvantaged children will receive Christmas gifts this year, after collecting shoeboxes filled with toys for the Operation Christmas Child appeal.

They filled 43 shoeboxes for the global annual appeal, organised by Samaritan's Purse, which provides gifts for needy children in more than 100 countries.

The boxes of toys, candy, toothbrushes and soap, were accumulated over a month and taken to the collection point in Caroline Street. From there they will be despatched to less fortunate children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

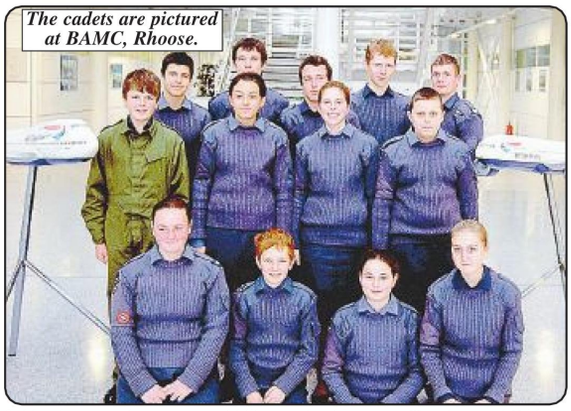
Anne Lowndes, director of the Specsavers store in Bridgend, said: "With all the frantic present-buying at this time of year, it's sometimes easy to forget about those less fortunate during the festive season.

"We wanted to take part in Operation Christmas Child this year because it's our chance to do something small that will put a smile on the faces of some children who have nothing."

Left to right: Charlotte Whitelock, Nic Edwards, Clare Pearce, Carol Oakley and Julie Quinn with some of their shoebox collection.

Kenfig Hill cadets get jumbo-sized 747 tour

THIRTEEN cadets, nine from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron and four from 1092 (Bridgend) Squadron, went on a careers visit to British Airways Maintenance Cardiff, organised by Sergeant Kevin Gould ATC.



The cadets are pictured at BAMC, Rhoose.

The visit was careers-based and cadets were given the opportunity to have a guided tour around a BA Boeing 747, which included access to the flight deck.

They also saw a BA Boeing 777 being moved into the hangar, and saw how the maintenance platforms were positioned ready for the aircraft to be worked on.

This gave all the cadets who were interested in a career in this field to have up close experience of the maintenance set-up of one of the world's leading airlines.

Flt Lt Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron, would like to take this opportunity to thank BAMC for allowing access to the facilities, and also to thank the local schools for their support in giving the cadets time off to attend.

The Squadron parades on Tuesdays and Fridays (7pm-9.30pm). *For more information please contact the Squadron on parade nights, telephone 01656 670125.*

LINDSAY THOMAS (Secretary, Civilian Committee)

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGEND CHESS CLUB

Time Lords sting the Wasps

THE Wasps of Aberdare were the visitors to the Bridgend Tennis and Bowls Club and, having braved the elements, they were rewarded with an excellent win on the top board.

Alas, it proved to be their only success of the night, as the Time Lords temporarily moved to the top of Division One of the East Glamorgan Chess League.

Without their international masters, Roland Berzinsh and Odion Aikhoje, the Time Lords showed they have some strength in depth, to swat the Wasps in a 3.5-1.5 victory.

There were wins for David Robinson, Mike Cleaves and Mark Jones, seeing off Philip French, Steve Woodrow and Jeff Thomas respectively.

Newcomer Mike Cram, joining the Time Lords for his first match, earned a creditable draw against seasoned veteran of the chequered board Mike Woodrow.

Lightning Championship

AFTER an absence of 36 years, the Bridgend Chess Club Lightning Championship, has been resurrected, producing some exciting and often chaotic chess.

A buzzer sounds every 10 seconds, thus signalling a player's turn to move. It's natural when under pressure during the game to think that the time allotted is getting shorter, panic sets in and mistakes can happen.

It's the only form of chess that permits the capture of the king, as Robert Rees found to his cost when facing newcomer Luke Denholm, some 600+ rating points below him. "You can't do that!" exclaimed Robert.

Well indeed he can Robert, for this is Lightning Chess. You can attack the king and unless check is prevented or the king moved, it gets captured and the game is won instantly.

It's the second time Luke has captured his opponent's king, having previously beaten Wayne James in a similar fashion.

Dom Cavalli also snared a king, on this occasion from Gwylim Moses, who equally wore a face of complete shock at such a move. On the whole, most of the games went with grade, the stronger players faring quite well.

However, the star of Monday night's second round of lightning chess was undoubtedly Katie Treharne, her slight figure turning each of her games into a David vs Goliath contest.

First up was confident brother George. He must have cursed his luck as Katie beat her sibling, and then Luke Denholm, to score 2/2 on the night.

Ready to do battle, she met Mark Jones in round three. Suddenly, her chess board became the focal point of the club's attention, everyone watching as with every 10 seconds, Katie would inflict wound after wound on Mark. In fairness, Mark could do nothing but sit back and watch as eventually she clinched the win – checkmate!

With 10 rounds completed, the next night of lightning will be in the New Year, Femi Adebajo currently leads the field with 10/10, David Robinson has 8/10 with Mark Jones and Sean Day on 7/10.

Gambit Knight

BRIDGEND Chess Club is to hold an evening of Gambit Chess, on Thursday, December 3 at the Bridgend Tennis and Bowls Club, Bridgend.

Players old and new are invited to take part. The action gets underway at 7.30pm.

Weekly chess puzzle

THE GEM has teamed up with Bridgend Chess Club to offer a new weekly competition.

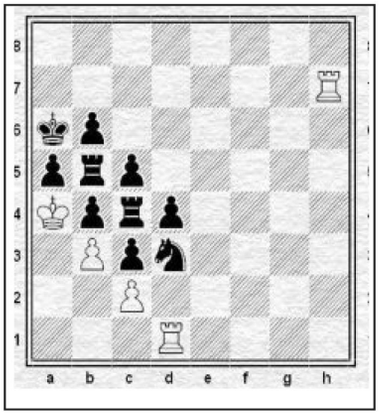
Solve the chess puzzle below and submit your entry to us. Each week there is a free month's membership to Bridgend Chess Club up for grabs.

White to play

Mate in three moves. Puzzle: BCC-004.

Closing date for entries: December 5.

Answer to puzzle on November 12. BCC-002.



1 Rxh7 Nxh7 2. Qxh7#

Entries to The GEM, 53, Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.

Email entries to the following: andrew@bridgendchessclub.org.uk

ANDREW TRICKEY

TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

We welcome your news, views and sports items. You can either post them to Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, or preferably email them to: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Out and About with The GEM

Ben (and cello) will star in orchestra's winter concert...

THE winter concert by the Dinas Powys Orchestra, conductor Antony Tarlton, will be held on December 13 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, and also on December 14 at Bradenstoke Hall, Atlantic College, St Donats.

Ben Tarlton.

This year, the orchestra is delighted to announce that 14-year-old Ben Tarlton will be the guest soloist playing Elgar's *Cello Concerto*.

Ben is an exceptionally talented musician, who already has an impressive collection of musical achievements.

He lives in Llantwit Major and has played the cello since he was five years old, achieving a distinction in his grade 8 examination in April 2007 at the age of 11.

In December 2007, Ben was selected to play in the under-13s National Children's Orchestra and played on the first desk for several concerts. He has been re-selected for the year 2009 to play in the main orchestra.

He was the winner of the junior section of the 'Music in the Vale' competition held in November 2007 and won several medals and trophies for performances in the South Glamorgan Festival for young Musicians held in May 2008.

In January 2009, he achieved four gold medals for first prizes in the Swansea Festival for Young Musicians, for the second year running.

Three of these classes had upper age limits of 18 and of 20. In April, he was awarded the trophy for 'The most outstanding string player' for the festival for 2009.

This year, Ben has also competed in the Rotary competition for Young Musicians from schools in south, mid and west Wales. He won the first and second rounds, then was the overall winner in May in the final concert which took place in the Millennium Centre. He was presented with a cup and prize by Rhodri Morgan.

In April 2008, he was awarded the title of 'Young Citizen of the Year' by Llantwit Major Town Council. He has played in many concerts the past 18 months, as well as giving several private performances.

Ben studies the cello with Sharon Mackinley and has been awarded a generous bursary by Beecher Acoustics towards his fine Italian full size cello.

The programme will also include Schubert's *Overture Rosamunde* and Beethoven's *Symphony No 8*.

For further details please visit the web site www.cdpo.org.uk or telephone 029 2070 4195 for the Penarth Concert and 01446 796 929 for the St Donats concert.

MO DORKEN

Y Bont Faen Primary School
Christmas Fayre
Saturday 5th December
Starts 10am - 12 noon
Many stalls and lots of things to see
Entry Fee Only 50p per family
ALL WELCOME

Be one of 500 Santas on Ty Hafan run!

TV presenters Lucy and Rhodri Owen, and their own little Santa (son Gabriel) visited Ty Hafan to join the children and carers in a warm-up for the Bridgend Santa Run, due to take place on Saturday, December 12 at 5.30pm.

Following the success of the event in 2008, Ty Hafan, the family hospice for young lives, is taking Santa on the run again this year for a festive fundraiser.

Entrants can walk, jog or run the two kilometre route which will take up to 500 Santas on a two-lap route around the town and beneath the sparkling Christmas lights.

Organiser Alan Drury, said: "You can give the best possible present this year by helping to make a world of difference to the life-limited children, young people and their families who rely on Ty Hafan for comfort, care and support."

All entrants will receive a free Santa suit to run in on the day, and anyone raising £35 or more in sponsorship will also receive a commemorative souvenir. Bottled water for the event has been donated by Brecon Carreg.

Entry is £5 for children, £7.50 for adults and £20 for a family of four.

Entry forms can be downloaded from www.tyhafan.org or by calling Alan Drury on 029 2067 2060.

Bois Y Bont aids children's causes

CAPELA male choristers, Bois y Bont, recently undertook a short weekend tour to Tenby, led by tour director, Brian Lewis and conductor, John Morgan.

The 18 choristers gave a number of impromptu performances, including Tenby Rugby Club and the town's British Legion.

Both tourists and locals showed their appreciation by contributing generously to charity.

Soloists were in demand and drew plenty of encouragement; 100 per cent of the not insignificant bucket collection was divided equally between a trust fund for a local youngster requiring continuing extensive treatment and Children In Need.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christmas market

THE St Nicholas Parish Church will hold a Christmas market on Saturday, November 28, at 10.30am-12.30pm, in St Nicholas church hall.

Stalls include crafts, gifts, cakes, books and there will be a raffle.

Admission £1 to include tea/coffee and a mince pie. Proceeds to church funds.

Mayor's coffee

ASHGROVE School will benefit from the Mayor of the Vale's charity coffee morning at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, December 1 (10.30am-12noon).

Businesswoman's award for 'anti-stress' workshops

LOCAL businesswoman Debbie Wildi has won the Welsh Spiritual Connection Award, for her work in the Vale teaching relaxation methods to adults and children suffering the effects of stress.

She runs workshops and classes and travels the Vale talking to mental health groups through her company 'prana life'.

Debbie feels charity work is her "most important venture" and aims to raise awareness of the effects of stress and depression and how to combat them, while raising as much as she can for charities such as MIND in the Vale.

Her book *Invest in You* is launched on December 2, in Karma Beauty, Cowbridge.

A percentage of profits from all sales will go to MIND in the Vale, plus a charity raffle.

For more details, see www.pranalife.co.uk or call 01446 771649.

Top award for school's young film makers

Coun Tony Hampton with award-winning Barry Comprehensive film makers George Crowther, Sam Adamson, Jack Williams and Alex Parker.

YOUNG film makers at Barry Comprehensive scooped a top award in the best regional film (Vale of Glamorgan) category at this year's media4schools film awards, sponsored by Sony UK.

The group, whose film was entitled 'Year Seven Cross Country', were George Crowther, Sam Adamson and Jack Williams (year-12) and Alex Parker (year-9).

They received their award from Vale councillor Tony Hampton, the cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, who is also a Barry Comprehensive School governor.

Schools from across south Wales competed to scoop top prizes in categories such as best edited film, best animation and the coveted best overall film.

More free leisure time for services

A SCHEME offering Service personnel, living or staying in the area, free use of facilities at Vale Council leisure and sports centres, has been extended until April 2011.

The council cabinet move follows a six-month trial during which members of the armed services were provided with access to the authority's leisure facilities.

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, November 10 – 1st Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer with 69.84 per cent; 2nd Gerald Gould and Noelle Bond 63.49 per cent; 3rd Carol James and Eileen Hughes 52.38 per cent.

Mark and Kay also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information telephone 01446 733425.

COWBRIDGE UNITED FREE CHURCH
Christmas Services 2009

Nov 29th:	Advent Carol Service 6pm
Dec 7th:	Day of Prayer 10am - 6pm
Dec 13th:	Gift Sunday Service 10.30am
Dec 20th:	Nativity Play and Worship 10.30am
Dec 20th:	Carols by Candlelight 6pm
Dec 24th:	Christmas Eve Meditation, Music and Communion 6pm
Dec 25th:	Christmas Day Family Worship and Crib Service 10am

Christmas Lunches w/c December 14th
Ring to book 01446 771021
www.cowbridgeunitedfreechurch.org.uk

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Netball teams tackle the URDD challenge

LAST week, Cowbridge took three netball teams to the Welsh Urdd Tournament.

The year-8 team played at UWIC. A combined year-9 and year-10 team played at Tal-y-Bont and a year-11,12 and 13 team played at Sophia Gardens.

Year-8 on song

The year-8 netball team had a fantastic day and achieved Cowbridge's best results in this tournament to date!

They played nine games during the day – winning seven games and scoring an impressive 38 goals, despite the games being of short duration (only five minutes each way).

During the first game, Cowbridge made a strong start and quickly capitalised on Glan-y-Mor's mistakes to lead 4-0 at half-time. Excellent linking play from Jo Wilkins at GS and Hannah Woodwood at GA saw the final score rest at 8-0 to Cowbridge.

Eliza Smith at WD was voted player of this first match.

In the second match, Cowbridge came up against reigning champions Corpus Christi and were outclassed by their exceptional skill and pace.

Despite some outstanding defence and interceptions from Olivia Brown at GD and Sarah Lewis at GK, the Corpus Christi team finished the game winning 7-1.

Sarah Lewis was voted as our player of the match.

Despite this knock back, Cowbridge remained in high in spirits and picked themselves up to win the next five games. Scores were as follows:-

- Cowbridge won 6-1 v Cwm Rumni. Player of the match, Jo Wilkins.
- Cowbridge won 10-4 v Bryn Hafren. Player of the match, Olivia Brown.
- Cowbridge won 4-2 v Gwyr. Player of the match, Amy O'Donnell.
- Cowbridge won 2-0 v Gwyn Llyw. Player of the match, Georgia Lott.
- Cowbridge won 7-3 v Pen-y-dre. Player of the match, Lillie Evans/Katie Llewellyn.

An exceptional team performance throughout saw the girls finishing as runners-up in their pod and qualifying for the quarter-finals against Coed Cae.

It was Cowbridge who scored first, enabling them to settle into the game and focus on the task ahead. Annabel Curle controlled the game excellently from the C and together with Amy O'Donnell, fed some lovely balls into the shooting circle for Jo Wilkins at GS and Hannah Woodwood at GA, taking the score to 3-2 to Cowbridge at half-time**.**

The girls knew they had to come out fighting in the second half and Sarah Lewis put in an outstanding performance at GK to ensure Coed Cae's scoring opportunities were kept to a minimum. An exceptional team performance saw Cowbridge win 6-3 to qualify for the semi-finals!

Cowbridge drew Corpus Christi again in the semi-final, and despite their earlier loss, the girls were in high spirits going into the game.

Unfortunately it was not meant to be, and Cowbridge went out, losing 9-1 to Corpus Christi, who then went on to win the final.

Achieving a semi-final place in a Welsh Competition is something the girls should be very proud of. Well done!

The squad was: Jo Wilkins, Hannah Woodwood, Amy O'Donnell, Lily Evans, Annabel Curle, Eliza Smith, Georgia Lott, Hannah Gaslan, Sarah Lewis, Olivia Brown, Kate Llewellyn and Lydia Hitchings.

ABOVE: The school's year-8 netball team who did well at UWIC.

Year-9 and year-10

Cowbridge year-9 and 10 netball team played in the Urdd Netball at Tal-y-Bont.

First game was against Cardinal Newman where Cowbridge won 5-0. Mairi Boxall scored three goals and Katie Wynne two. There was great defence from Caitlin Allin and Bethan Sloan and centre Liz Whitehouse played well, feeding the attack strong balls to shoot.

The second game was against Corpus Christi second team. Corpus, a renowned team, beat Cowbridge 6-0. This was a difficult game for Cowbridge where Beth Sloan and Caitlin Allin did well in defence. Cowbridge did have the opportunity to attack Corpus, but their defence was too good.

The third game was against Maes Gorman with a change in the team. Nancie Edwards came in as shooter, Nadeni GK , Romi WA and Amy WD. Again, all girls played well with Katie Wynne and Nancie scoring one each. However, Maes Gorman scored three.

The fourth game was against Glan y Mor and it was a victory for Cowbridge by 3-2 with one goal from Mairi Boxall and two from Nancie Edwards, despite a messy game with many mistakes.

The fifth game was against Cwrt Sart a strong tall team. Centre Liz Whitehouse struggled with a calf injury and had to be taken off but the girls held on to finish in a draw of 4-4.

Tonyrefail then dropped out during the day which left Cowbridge with a big gap in play. In the sixth game, Cowbridge faced another strong team, Queen Elizabeth, and lost 6-0.

The last game of the day was against Gwyr. A tired Cowbridge team let Gwyr get the better of them by making silly errors and eventually lost the game 6-0.

A good day was had by all the team, despite the injuries to Liz and Amy Wallis, and we wish them well in recovery.

Seniors (11-13)

In the first match of the tournament, Cowbridge got off to a strong start with an early goal from goal shooter Amy Goodfellow. Despite many interceptions made by the Cowbridge defence, Ogmore stepped up their attack and won 11-1.

The second match was definitely one of the most fast-paced! With an early goal from Alice Thomas, matched with some fantastic interceptions by Bethan Moorcraft and Emily Renwick, we went into half-time 2-1 down.

After some extremely exciting narrow misses from our goal shooter Charlotte Taylor, the school narrowly lost by 3-1 to Bro Myrddin.

In the third match, Cowbridge scored goals from Alice Thomas and Amy Goodfellow, to make the score 4-1.

In the second half, the defence made many fantastic interceptions to make the final score 6-2 to Cowbridge.

In the fourth match Cowbridge made use of their new found confidence and stretched their winning streak with an 8-4 victory over Amman Valley. Cowbridge started strongly with some excellent goals from Amy Goodfellow leaving Cowbridge 4-2 ahead after the first half. They stayed on form in the second half, resulting in an all-round great team effort.

Cowbridge got off to a slow start in the fifth match against local rivals Llantwit Major, but Cowbridge soon began to pick it up showing moments of brilliance, but due to some strong play from the Llantwit shooters Cowbridge lost 2-9.

The last match of the tournament saw Cowbridge up against Maes yr Yrfa. The two teams were well matched in the first half with near misses from both teams making the score 1-1 at half-time. Cowbridge kept the ball in the second half, adding four goals by Charlotte Thomas and Alice Thomas. The final score was 5-2 to Cowbridge. The girls finished third overall.

Team: Amy Goodfellow, Charlotte Martin, Charlotte Taylor, Emily Renwick, Bethan Moorcraft, Jordan Guard, Louise Edwards, Alice Thomas.

Year-7

After a strong half term of training, the year-7 netball teams took to the court for their first match against Brynteg Comprehensive School, and their performances did not disappoint!

The 7A team were off to a flying start with some great linking in attack between Hanna Lister-Sims as C, Ellie Davies at WA, Kim Jerwood as GA and Emily Davies as GS.

They quickly settled into the game and were leading 6-0 at half time.

Going into the second half, a solid defence of Katie Kell at WD, Rebecca Thomas at GD and Gemma George at GK, ensured they kept a clean sweep and prevented the Brynteg team from scoring any goals. The game finished with a final score of 12-0 to the Cowbridge girls.

Player of the match: Kim Jerwood.

The B team continued with this fine form and stormed ahead with goals thanks to Megan McNamee at GS and Jo Hannaby at GA.

Lowri Allen at WA, Stephanie Sanderson at C and Catherine Rees at WD ensured the ball was brought steadily down the court and fed to the shooters to give the girls a 7-0 lead at half-time.

In the second half, Laurie Thomas came onto GS, Megan McNamee went to GA, Jo Hannaby went to WD, Catherine Rees went into C and Stephanie Sanderson came off.

The defence of Caitlin Jones as GD and Paige Williams at GK continued with their campaign to keep Brynteg's scoreboard clear and the game finished 12-0 to Cowbridge.

Megan McNamee was voted as player of the match.

HOCKEY

COWBRIDGE year-8s played Bryn Hafren in two seven-a-side matches due to Bryn Hafren's astro turf still not being complete and no astro turf at Cowbridge.

The game was played on the wet, muddy grass on lower school fields.

Both teams had to battle against the conditions where the ball became stuck to a stick with the mud, the girls were sliding around and there was heavy rain to spice things up!

Despite the conditions, fun was had by all and at least the girls managed to play a game. Cowbridge came out on top in both games with team one winning 6-0 with all six goals from Hannah Woodwood.

Player of the match was Katie Llewellyn.

In team two's match, the score was the same with Cowbridge winning 6-0 – Georgia Lott scoring four goals and Megan Warburton and Eliza Smith one each.

Player of the match: Kate Llewellyn (team one) and Megan Warburton (team two).

CROSS COUNTRY

ON a wet and windy day in Brecon, Cowbridge took part in the Welsh Schools Cross country Championships.

In the under-14 girls race, Annabel Curle led the team home in 16th place. This was an excellent run for Annabel who has just recovered from being ill and struggled with her breathing on the day. *(See page 35 for more details).*

Next to finish were the year-7 contingent of Elinor Bishop (33rd), Rebecca Thomas (45th) and Alice Tudor (48th) to complete the team. The team finished in fourth place.

Elinor Morgan competed in the school team for the first time and ran well to finish in 60th place, with Laurie Thomas finishing in 62nd place. A great effort by all the girls.

In the under-16 girls race, Fiona Bray finished in 16th place – another great performance by Fiona in a national race. Miriam Bennett finished in 21st place, which was a superb race for her and third to finish was the ever-improving Rebecca John in 34th.

Unfortunately, due to injury, illness and other commitments a further runner did not compete to make up a full team.

For the same reasons a senior team could not be found.

Llantwit boxer Dan impresses the purists

A YOUN G Llantwit Major boxer featured in the 'best bout of the night' at the boxing event held in the Llantwit Major Leisure Centre last Friday (November 20).

Liantwit's Daniel Ruffle fought Dave Andrews, who could not get any where near Daniel's evasive southpaw style. He chased Ruffle around the ring for three rounds scoring occasionally, and the Llantwit boxer won on a unanimous points verdict.

Ten-year-old Dillon Cook (Llantwit Major ABC) boxed G Jones of Cwmcarn. Dillon also used the ring to his advantage, scoring well throughout this well-matched contest and got the nod from all three judges.

Super heavyweight Gareth O'Callaghan boxed Craig Carrell, who travelled from Grimsby to take on the Llantwit boxer. Gareth didn't take advantage of his better fitness level and let the northerner off the hook on occasions, losing the contest on a close points decision.

David Avrarm was in the ring against L Jones of Porthcawl ABC and the taller Jones did not let David get past his longer reach. In the second round, the referee stopped the contest.

Hendry Mcallister, boxing for the host club, took on T Lloyd of Barry Westend ABC. Hendry showed sighs of ring rust after being out of boxing for some time.

However, he did show some of his old class, while his younger opponent also performed well, hitting the target with good combinations shots. The Barry West End Boxer got the decision.

Last year's youth champion, Lee Dixon, boxed a good exhibition contest with Oliver Dacton of Barry West End.

Llantwit Major's woman boxer, Hannah Willcox, was also involved in a exhibition contest with S Whistands of Hereford ABC, and both did well.

Dale Phillips from the host club had a hard bout against Owen Christopher (Taibach ABC).It was all even going into the last round, until the Taibach boy came out strong, hitting Dale with good shots.

Towards the end of the contest, the Llantwit boxer came good with a rally of combinations to head and body.

Dale won the close bout on a two to one decision. This win makes it five on a trot for the young boxer.

In December, Llantwit Major Amateur Boxing Club, in conjunction with the Vale of Glamorgan Police, is putting on a charity boxing event.

The format means that there will be no decisions after the bouts, and it will be held in the Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, on Saturday, December 12, from 7pm until midnight.Tickets are available from Vale Shoe Repair, the Precinct, Llantwit Major.

Tony Meakin.

News from Garw Valley Railway

RECENT work undertaken at Pontycymer locomotive shed has surrounded the steam locomotive 7705, where both the left and right hand sides of the smokebox plate have been removed due to wasting around the saddle tank brackets. New plate will be riveted into place.

Other work has focused on the 'Shark' brake van, where attention has now turned to the roof. This is a joint project with the local ARC group, whose members have also done work on the side walls, replacing the old walls with new timbers.

The distinctive Shark brakevans were used on engineering trains as part of a track renewal process. The vans have their own retractable ploughs at each end, which were used to spread newly laid ballast.

The next stage of the restoration will focus on this area and the mechanism for lowering the ploughs.

Maintenance work has been carried out on the coal shovel, as well as on one of the diesel mechanical 'Planet' shunters. The Class 108 diesel multiple unit is having its seats refurbished and re-upholstered in readiness for future services.

On the exterior front, the main shed doors and the entrance door have been de-rusted and given a new coat of blue paint. (We would like to thank everyone who contributed paint to the project.)

The concrete floor of the shed is also being painted once work has finished each week. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to call into the shed any Saturday to see what is going on.

Work parties take place from around 9.30am-4pm each Saturday.

NW

'Gavin and Stacey' can boost Vale tourism

A COUNCILLOR'S recommendation that the hit BBC TV series *Gavin and Stacey* should be added to the Vale Council's draft tourism strategy has been accepted.

Coun Rob Curtis, who represents Barry on the Vale Council, told The GEM yesterday that he was "delighted" that the economy and environment scrutiny committee had agreed to add the proposal to the draft document, which considers how to boost local tourism, at a meeting on Tuesday.

The third series of *Gavin and Stacey* airs tonight on BBC1 at 9pm, and in the last two years there have been growing numbers of visitors to Barry and the Island, keen to track down the familiar locations.

Coun Curtis said: "The series has helped to put Barry and Barry Island on the map.

"I hope the council cabinet will approve the document."

Coun Rob Curtis hopes that a *Gavin and Stacey* trail will be agreed by the production company Baby Cow, which owns the series' copywright, once a decision has been finally made that no more programmes will be produced

You can win a Christmas tree!

THE GEM has teamed up with The Downs Christmas Tree Centre to offer local children a chance to win their family a fantastic real Christmas tree!

The competition winners will be able to point to the magnificent Christmas centrepiece throughout the festive period and say: "I won that!"

The competition is for the best artwork of a decorated Christmas tree – in any form.

It could be a painting, poster, anything at all in two dimensions, or even three!

There is a prize in each of four age groups: under-8, age nine-to-11, 12-15, and 16 and over. One entry per child will be accepted.

Completed entries can be posted in the competition box at The Downs Christmas Tree site, or at Amici in Cowbridge High Street.

Winning entries will be displayed at the Downs Christmas Tree site.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 9.

The winner of each section will be able to choose a Christmas tree to a maximum value of £40 on Saturday, December 12.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Appeal after Penarth theft

PENARTH police are investigating a burglary at the outbuilding of a house on Purcell Road, when thieves made off with a bow and arrows, a Weinrach air rifle in a green case, a crossbow, a drill, and a remote controlled helicopter.

The theft took place between 11pm on November 22 and 9am the following morning.

Detective Sergeant Mark Bowen of Barry CID said: "We would like to hear from anyone who may have information with regard to this incident.

"If you saw anyone behaving suspiciously in the area, or if you have information about this crime then please contact the police."

Anyone with information about this burglary is asked to contact DS Mark Bowen at Barry CID on 01446 731606 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Say no to drink and drugs – MP

VALE MP John Smith is supporting the national road safety charity Brake's campaign to highlight its 'Not a drop, not a drag' campaign, in Road Safety Week.

"The charity, which coordinates the annual road safety event, is highlighting two major killers on our roads: drink and drug driving. One in six road deaths are caused by drivers with more than the legal alcohol limit in their blood, and research suggests that similar numbers may involve drivers on illegal drugs," Mr Smith said.

"I am asking all drivers in the Vale to make a personal commitment not to risk a drop of alcohol or any illegal drug if you're getting behind the wheel."

Are council bags now delivered by helicopter?

ABOVE: THE PROBLEM...

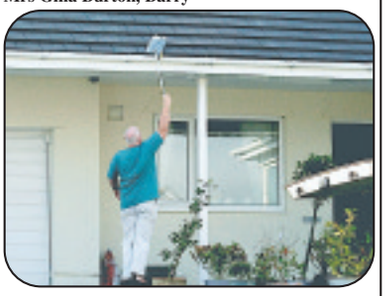
WHEN I looked out of my window this morning, I noticed the council had delivered my supply of black bin bags, so I went out to lift them from the driveway.

As I picked them up, something caught my eye on my elderly neighbour's roof.

When I had a closer look, I noticed it was her supply of bin bags! So I can only assume that the council are trialling delivery of these bags by helicopter and the pilot's aim was affected by the high gusts of wind we are experiencing at the moment.

Luckily, my husband, who is also a pilot, was able to effect a safe retrieval of the aforementioned bags. (*See picture below*).

Mrs Gina Burton, Barry



...AND THE SOLUTION!

Eminent Briton stamp winners

THE winners of a pack of Eminent Briton stamps were:

Mr Willis, Bridgend; Tariq Phillips, Llanharan; Maisie Manley, Porthcawl; Mrs Partridge, Barry; C Clancy, Bridgend; Mrs K Edwards, Dinas Powys; Mrs J Davies, Rhoose; Lisa Wells, Barry; Mari Hughes, Ely; David Lewis, St Brides Major; Robina Brooks, Sully; SE Ware, East Aberthaw; Mildred Trigg Knight, Bridgend; AE Evans, Craig Penllyn; Jeanette Thomas, Cowbridge; Mrs J James, Boverton; Colin Marsh, Llantwit Major; Mrs Ann King, Pencoed; P Jones, Cowbridge; Mrs Overy, Boverton.

Barry carols

AGE CONCERN (Senior Health Shop) is holding a Christmas carol concert, on December 2, at 10.30am, with Barry Ladies Choir.

Join in over a cup of tea or coffee and a mince pie. *Further information on 01446 747654.*

PACT MEETING

COFFEE and chat meeting at the White Lion Public House, Ystradowen, December 1, 11.30am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

Teen vampire film needs a severe splashing in holy water and garlic!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

THERE is money to be made in teenagers – not literally, they haven't quite managed the ability to harvest currency at will, but their spending power is something not to be sniffed at.

With their hands in their pockets, a fad can easily become a craze, something that has happened to the *Twilight* series of books by Stephanie Meyer.

But far from being the sole property of gloomy teenagers everywhere, the books, and the first film, have become a phenomenon, something that can only be sated by the release of the second film, going under the title of *New Moon*.

Continuing from where the first film left off, Bella (Kristen Stewart) and Edward's (Robert Pattinson) relationship is growing stronger, despite the small bump of him being an immortal vampire; but when Bella's blood is shed, Edward and his family leave the small town, ostensibly to protect Bella.

Her response is to throw caution to the wind, forming a close friendship with Jacob (Taylor Lautner), who himself isn't quite what he seems – but despite Edward and his family leaving town, Bella is still far from safe...

The first *Twilight* film was a laughably poor piece of work that failed to convince me in anyway whatsoever; however, given that I was probably the oldest person in the cinema, I can't imagine that the film makers were all that bothered, particularly as the film pocketed a rather impressive $380million worldwide.

This latest instalment will no doubt achieve even greater financial rewards given the amount of publicity and hype afforded it. Yet it comes nowhere close to deserving it, the end product a monotonous and dull exercise in the lives of moping hormonal teenagers – who just happen to be either werewolves, vampires or just plain normal.

However it isn't as if anything I say here will have the slightest effect on the target audience of these films – after all, not being a teenage girl who thinks Robert Pattinson is God's gift to manhood, it's pretty safe to say this is one film that makes no bones about who it is actually intended to appeal to.

But scrape away the layers of youthful adoration and you are left with a film that doesn't succeed on any level other than that of parting cash from teenage purses, and has very little in the way of artistic merit.

Given the rabid adoration these films have, it's no surprise that both Pattinson and Kristen Stewart have become teen icons, but both performers have shown outside the franchise that they have a strong work ethic and acting ability.

Unfortunately, whether it is down to the screenplay, adapted by Melissa Rosenberg, or just that the two actors weren't quite getting into the material, neither distinguish themselves with a good turn.

Pattinson is merely asked to float round (at times literally), his pale skin the strongest element of a performance that may make some people swoon but does very little; however, there is the odd occasion where he delivers which makes you wish he did it more often through the course of the film instead of looking pensive and, supposedly, deep.

Stewart has by far the meatiest role on show, yet manages to be both incredibly annoying and also quite unbelievably melodramatic.

It is little slight on the actress, but her character's constant misery due to Edward's leaving grates, and you wish that ,rather than become an adrenaline junkie (which allows her to see Edward, as his pasty visage pops up to warn her about the danger of her actions) she would just get a tub of ice-cream, watch *Dirty Dancing* and be done with it.

The performances around the two of them are nothing to write home about either; Taylor Lautner, as the third side of the love triangle, may have developed impressive muscles in the year since the last film, but fails to have developed his acting ability, coming across so wooden that you could carve him into a stake to taunt Edward.

When even Michael Sheen (in a five-minute cameo) is struggling to deliver a good performance, you know that you're in trouble.

Sadly, things aren't made any better by the direction. Chris Weitz, who, having replaced the first film's director, Catherine Hardwick, promptly uses the exact same visual style and colour scheme, makes you wonder why the latter was ousted by the former – given the almost carbon copy direction he offers.

He isn't helped by a narrative that is so dull and boring that this two-hour film feels around two weeks long, and Weitz does very little to liven things up with direction that borders on the mundane.

Ultimately, the success of *New Moon* will depend on how many people will go and see it. Given that it has just broken the one-day ticket sales record in America, that no doubt means a lot of people - but it is a film that doesn't deserve it, the finished product being drab and painfully boring.

VERDICT – A weaker offering than its progenitor, which itself was poor, *The Twilight Saga: New Moon* is teen-friendly rubbish that may indeed make its audience swoon but will leave the non-believers freezing cold.

Poor performances and weak direction make this a listless piece of work, but one that will no doubt rake it in where it counts – at the box office.

One to avoid *(unless you're a hormonal 15-year-old girl).*

CAOS call for Annie

THE the Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS) is on the lookout for a young girl, aged eight-14, to play Annie in their next production. needs you!

On Saturday (November 28), at 11am it holds an audition day at Y Bont Faen School, Cowbridge. *Telephone 01446 713110 or visit www.cowbridgeaos.org.uk.*

BHF thanks for donations

AS the local British Heart Foundation (BHF) In Memoriam secretary, I am writing to thank all those readers who selected the BHF to benefit from financial tributes to be given in place of flowers at funerals.

We understand that decisions can be hard to make at the difficult time of losing a loved one.

We are very grateful to those who choose the BHF as the charity to benefit from their thoughtfulness.

The BHF's vital work significantly prolongs and improves the quality of life of the very many sufferers from heart disease.

When donations are to be given to charity in the place of funeral flowers, we very much hope that readers will give sincere consideration to supporting the vital work of the BHF.

With 240,000 people in Wales currently living with and suffering from the serious disabling effects of coronary heart disease alone, there is clearly much still to be done.

Patrick Hart, In Memoriam Secretary, British Heart Foundation Cymru, (Llantwit Major and Barry).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 593.

● **£2000:** 515316 (the winner comes from Cardiff).

● **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not claimed this week.**

● **£10:** 515103, 724867, 178425, 845311, 461843, 749847, 788225, 607876, 397157, 874785, 212950, 804287, 616084, 733248, 468609, 896976, 501498, 838032, 787148, 593574. ● **£5:** 160524, 191151, 888761, 870298, 508548, 271608, 760124, 179597, 854476, 784828, 312629, 892388, 545252, 839059, 896091, 293707, 594047, 183518, 889025, 139930, 419697, 769296, 673944, 362586, 802738, 737469, 534403, 686339, 699208, 129693, 227754, 777853, 542292, 804755, 836676, 509813, 223595, 761911, 778289, 326524, 230435, 742806, 310107, 482744, 619605, 505086, 420971, 227706, 333488, 711223, 872955, 265101, 754655, 263688, 193977, 863207, 125709, 141622, 406298, 264760.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please call telephone 02920 672062.

BRYNCETHIN RFC MINI AND JUNIOR ROUND-UP

Welcome to a wet and windy local derby day

ON a wet and windy day, Bryncethin under-8s welcomed an experienced Porthcawl side.

On a heavy pitch, Porthcawl made the better start with some quick tries, but by the end of the half, Bryncethin had come back into the game with good defending and tagging from Billy Sinclair, Shea Francis and Kane Walters.

Just before the interval, Rhys Williams ran through with a break from the halfway line to make the score 1-4.

The second period showed better spirit from Bryncethin. Captain Will Laverick showing the way with some good running, with Jake Whitefield and Rhys Cawley scoring breakaway tries.

Shaun Batchelor showed great pace, and from his own touchline he out-jinked the Porthcawl side and ran the length of the pitch.

Again, with good tagging from Josh Nuth, Morgan Hughes and Thomas Bassett, Bryncethin finished the period the stronger.

In the final period, Miles Blakeman led the line well with some great tagging.

Showing great pace and direct running, Mike Gillette and Rhys Cawley ran through to score.

However, Porthcawl answered back with strong running of their own and in the end they finished the game 6-9 winners.

This week's standout performance award went to Rhys Cawley for some great tagging and defensive play, and scoring two good tries on a heavy pitch.

Squad: Will Laverick (captain), Billy Sinclair, Mike Gillette, Rhys Cawley, Shea Francis, Rhys Williams, Josh Nuth, Miles Blakeman, Morgan Hughes,Shaun Batchelor, Thomas Bassett, Kane Walters, Jake Whitefield.

UNDER-9s

AN excellent all-round performance saw a return to form for the Bryncethin under-9s as they beat Porthcawl 9-3.

The coaching team were delighted with the application shown by the team, who were led by Luke Board.

Superb driving and clearing out by the likes of Rhys Davies, Ethan Hopkins and Aaron Thomas laid the foundations for the display. There was excellent tackling by Josh Napper and Morgan Stevens.

Playing through the phases was also a highlight of the match, and this was demonstrated when Jack Thomas crossed after all the team had been involved.

Interplay was also on show when Daniel Osarigie and Tobias Hunt repeatedly exchanged passes to allow Tobias to cross the line.

All credit to Porthcawl for their efforts right until the end of the match. They were richly rewarded with three tries of their own.

However, further tries by Ethan Hopkins (two), Aaron Thomas (two), Keiron Dixon, Finlay Mullens and Daniel Osarigie were richly deserved.

Squad: Luke Board (captain), Finlay Mullens, Josh Napper, Rhys Davies, Jack Thomas, Tobias Hunt, Morgan Stevens, Keiron Dixon, Daniel Osarigie, Ethan Hopkins, Aaron Thomas.

Man-of-the-match: A super team display, but the award went to Keiron Dixon for his best display yet for Bryncethin - Well done Keiron.

UNDER-10s

THIS was an exciting game between Bryncethin and Porthcawl, with both sides playing fast, open rugby in difficult conditions.

Good handling and tackling from both sides made for a game that could have gone either way. Porthcawl had the better of the first half, with Bryncethin getting into their stride in the second half.

It was to be too little too late, with Bryncethin just falling short of the chance to score a try at the end of the game for a final score of 12-19.

Scores for Bryncethin were two tries and one conversion for Dafydd Evans.

Squad: Morgan Tarr (captain), Ryan Blake, Ryan Morgan, Ryan Lovell, Aaron Jones, Emyr Watkin, Iwan Veasey, Dafydd Evans, Gethyn Napper and Callum Francis.

Man-of-the-match: Aaron Jones.

UNDER-13s

IN dreadful conditions under foot, both Bryncethin and Maesteg Welsh tried hard to keep ball in hand, but Bryncethin scored first through a Dan Lockyer interception after just five minutes.

Bryncethin then went to sleep and the Welsh awoke to spend the rest of the first period in the Bryncethin half, scoring three unanswered converted tries.

This was mainly down to some lack-lustre defence from the home side, together with powerful driving play from the Maesteg pack.

The second half started in the same vein as the first had ended. The Cherry and Whites were losing the ball and the Welsh were picking and driving effectively to score the first try.

This was quickly followed by their second, which came from controlled phases of rucks and mauls that broke down the home defence. Neither were converted into the strong wind.

After some straight talking from the Bryncethin coaching team, the Cherry and Whites finally got into their stride, finding that they could ruck and maul successfully and with this new found realisation so came effective use of the ball.

Their second try came after Maesteg were stripped of the ball on the Bryncethin 10-yard line, for the ball to be quickly moved to centre Lockyer. He strode the 60 yards to the line, beating three defenders on his way, for an unconverted touchdown.

Five minutes later and with only eight minutes left, Bryncethin then scored from the move of the game. Excellent work from Ryan Lewis in stripping the ball for a turnover, saw Ryan Nolan drive 10 yards. Bryn rucked well and moved the ball to the right, making 20 metres.

From the next ruck, the ball was moved right, as wing Evan Jones made a scintillating break beating two players and drawing the final defender before supplying a perfect pass for Lockyer to finish the move, running in from 25 metres for the final score of the game. Final score 15-31.

Bryncethin man-of-the-match: Dan McIntyre for his huge effort in the front row.

Other notable performances came from Ryan Richards, Kane Ford, Gareth Evans, David Robbins, Curtis Napper and Luke Owen.

Pencoed under-9s are still unbeaten after win over local rivals

PENCOED under-9s were champing at the bit ahead of their encounter with local rivals Bridgend Athletic, their first game for a month after cancelled fixtures due to adverse weather conditions.

Pencoed won the toss and immediately attacked with a training ground move, passing the ball through five sets of hands to create a scoring opportunity close to Bridgend's line.

Dogged defence by the visitors kept Pencoed out by kicking back down the field but the skilful youngsters set up more passing moves, which resulted in Oliver Lewis going over twice in quick succession to open the scoring.

Bridgend's forwards tried to gain ground but with tacklers like Mikey Bosley, Owain John and Rhys Spurgeon, there was no way through.

With these tacklers winning turnovers and setting up quick ball, it was inevitable that flyer Tyron Harding would be set free and he was, running half the length of the field for Pencoed's third.

The second half started with the Ath trying to dominate the forward play, hitting the contact area with total commitment. However, Pencoed adapted to the challenge and were now winning the forward battle, pushing back the visitors in the mauls.

On one such occasion, Cael Chamberlain, Ben Humphries and Dewi Ward hit a maul as a unit, driving the visitors back a few yards for Mikey Bosley to spin away and run in Pencoed's fourth try.

Bridgend never gave up and put together a sequence of phases edging closer to the home team's line for Connor Fabian to scramble over for a try at the corner flag.

For all of Bridgend's commitment, the strength and impressive ball handling of Pencoed was too good and a jinking run by Jonathon Carr rounded off a convincing win .

The second game started as the first finished, with Jack Morgan driving into the Ath's defence.

Cael Chamberlain showed his strength at breaking the gain line time after time and Ben Jones and Oliver Lewis (with a tremendous display by Owain John, securing and bridging the ball at the breakdown) ensured attacking opportunities continued.

Jonathan Carr went over first, with Sam Costelow jinking through the defence and running 30 metres for Pencoed's second. Rhys Spurgeon's strength saw him go over and two more from Jonathan Carr saw Pencoed finish the half five up.

Pencoed (on right) secure quick ball.

It would have been understandable for the Ath heads to drop, but to their credit they came back and showed some greats skills, pushing Pencoed back and driving over for a try. For the next few minutes, Pencoed were on the back foot and had to kick out of defence several times to stop the Ath from going over.

The home side then stepped up a gear and some fine ball handling, again through Sam Costelow, Tyron Harding and Ben Humphries, popped the ball for Mickey Bosley to go over for Pencoed's sixth.

Another move gave Mickey Bosley his hat-trick and the Ath finished on a high with a score themselves.

Pencoed 7 Bridgend Ath 2

Man-of-the-match for the first game was Oliver Lewis and man-of-the-match for the second game was Jonathon Carr.

Team: Sam Costelow (captain), Mikey Bosley, Rhys Spurgeon, Oliver Lewis, Owain John, Tyron Harding, Jack Morgan, Ben Jones, Ben Humphries, Cael Chamberlain, Jonathon Carr, Dewi Ward.

New players are welcome. Contact Trina Harding, team manager on 07831 872383.

MB

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

IN The GEM on November 8, it was reported that Mr Stan Hayward had been tracing his family history.

A few years ago, his research revealed that one of his uncles had been omitted from the Cenotaph in Cowbridge – a mistake he was able to rectify.

Further research revealed another uncle, Benjamin Hayward, who had served in the Royal Navy and who died in 1916, lay in an unmarked grave in Wick Chapel.

In 1914, when Benjamin was called up, he married Margaret Williams of Broughton and had one child Aubrey, and was posted as a stoker to the warship *HMS Challenger*.

Unfortunately, Mr Hayward has been unable to establish the exact site of his uncle Benjamin's grave.

After discussions with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, it was suggested that a memorial wall plaque be placed on the outside of Wick Chapel.

On Sunday, November 15, a special service was held at Wick Chapel to dedicate a plaque recognising the chapel graveyard as an office War Graves site.

It was attended by Mr Stanley Hayward and other members of the family.

The standard bearer of the Llantwit Major branch of the British Legion and other members of the Legion were present at the ceremony, also members of Wick sister chapel at Nottage.

The Silent Tribute was said by local ex-serviceman Bill Austin.

Although initially a solemn occasion, it was also a warm, satisfying culmination of many years' research and correspondence, with visits by Mr Rose of the Western European Commission for War Graves to meet Julianne Morgan, the chapel's layreader. Mr Stanley Hayward was happy that is uncle's resting place was at last officially recognised.

The Hayward family are well known locally and kept the Bungalow Café in Marcross for many years.

CHRISTMAS services at Wick Chapel: Sunday, November 29 (Advent Sunday); Sunday, December 6 – The Gift of Christmas; Sunday, December 20 – Service of readings, carols.

GET well soon to Eva Morgan of Blaen Dedwi, Wick, following her recent fall and stay in hospital.

THE local produce market on November 21 at the Church Hall, St Brides Major, was again very successful with many more stalls. The next produce market will take place on December 19.

A CHRISTMAS fayre will take place at the church hall on Saturday, November 28, at 10.30am. Parish Christmas cards are available £2 for 10 (mix and match).

Pyjamas and Plaits raise cash for Children In Need

Stagecoach pupils in Bridgend.

STUDENTS from Stagecoach Cowbridge and Bridgend supported Children In Need by wearing 'Pyjamas and Plaits' to their Stagecoach sessions last week, instead of uniform.

Principal Helene Reynolds said: "This year, we were particularly keen to support the appeal, given the recent news that the Stagecoach Charitable Trust, Interact has been awarded £32,001 from Children In Need for a project in Manchester, beginning early 2010.

"This project will work with the most vulnerable children from an inner-city area of acute deprivation, with a reputation for teenage crime.

"The project will enable the children to develop self-esteem and learn 'skills for life' through attending Interact sessions in drama, dance and singing. A fantastic project, and always wonderful to see how much children can benefit and learn from being involved in the performing arts.

"Everyone had great fun and raised a fantastic £340.00 for the Children in Need Appeal," she reported.

Read your copy of The Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM online - *www.bridgend-today.co.uk* or *www.porthcawl-today.co.uk*

We welcome your items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: *ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

When the weather gets rough in Porthcawl, it gets very rough indeed!

THESE days, it seems that there are two occasions when Porthcawl will suddenly appear in national newspapers.

One is when a paper finds an excuse to mention the Elvis Festival, and that is the cue for a few eccentrics in tight leather jump suits.

The other is whenever the papers want to illustrate a 'Storms lash the UK' story.

The photograph on the right, with waves breaking over the harbour light has become a regular standby for such stories.

Most of the time, it is a fresh photo but sometimes, one suspects, a hard-pressed picture editor reaches for library photo.

The GEM's version (right) was taken by Malcolm Nugent, and Malcolm has seen his photograph appear in many guises after selling it to an internet company.

However, there are plenty of other similar shots in circulation as well. The result is, of course, that nowadays you can't move on Porthcawl promenade for enthusiasts trying to get their own version.

As can be seen in *Keith E Morgan's* photo (far right) there are dozens of cameramen in position to get that short of the harbour light.

To get a different angle on 'storms lash Porthcawl', *Glyn Evans* headed for Coney Beach, and found surfers and windsurfers making the most of the wind and rain, and fishermen carrying on as normal!

He also caught some spectacular shots of the harbour light, once again taking the brunt of the elements!

ABOVE: White water everywhere. Keith E Morgan's photograph shows the entire bay is a mass of foam as the waves lash Porthcawl promenade. (Note the photographers all poised near the harbour light)

ABOVE: A massive wave breaks over the harbour light.

ABOVE: Where's it gone? The harbour light disappears.

ABOVE: A windsurfer out in the worst of the weather.

ABOVE: The fishermen just carry on regardless.

ABOVE: A Coney Beach surfer gets ready to ride a wave.

Borys' brace seals Bridgend cup victory

TWO goals from Borys Udodenko paved the way for Bridgend Town under-12s to avenge their defeat two weeks ago at the hands of Bettws FC, and gave them a comfortable win in the second game of the Brian Drew Cup.

For the first time in weeks, Bridgend were able to field possibly their strongest side, with keeper Ben Morris's return from illness allowing captain Matthew John to take his place at the heart of the midfield. Only Richie Hughes was out of position at left back, but no-one would have known from his excellent performance.

After a long period of sustained attack, just when it seemed that the pressure would not yield any reward, Thomas Shepherd broke the deadlock with a fine individual goal, driving the ball high above the goalkeeper's head.

A few minutes later, Borys Udodenko made it two, finishing off a move down the right wing with a left footed drive from inside the box, ensuring Bridgend went into the break with a two-goal cushion.

In the second half, Bridgend were playing into the strong wind, and started with the same determined effort, focused on keeping possession. Borys Udodenko added a second to his tally, effectively making the game safe, and with the cushion of a three-goal lead, Bridgend were able to play a more expansive game.

Substitutes Ben Leonard, Ryan Bunce and Ben Shattock were brought on to freshen up a cold and wet team. Matthew Morgan eventually added a fourth to end the game four-nil.

New food project aims to tackle crisis situations

ABOVE (left to right):
Pictured at the opening are Coun Jeff Tildesley, Coun Huw David (cabinet member for resources at BCBC), Mrs Audrey Thomas (consort to the mayor), and Ann Griffiths, project officer of Bridgend Foodbank and Working for Homeless.

PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN.

A NEW project in Bridgend aims to tackle poverty by providing food to those in despeate need at a time of crisis.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Jeff Tildesley, recently opened the Bridgend Foodbank at The Well Christian Centre, Hermon Chapel, Nolton Street, Bridgend.

Bridgend Foodbank is part of a network of more than 40 foodbanks, started by the Trussell Trust, a Christian charity, which opened the first foodbank in Salisbury in 1999.

It is now a national operation, with projects right across the UK. Bridgend Foodbank is preparing to open its doors in December.

A foodbank spokesman explained: "The foodbank is a store where food donated by the community is banked, and which can be drawn on by people in crisis situations.

"Individuals, couples and families are provided with three days of food to see them through the period between crisis and the provision of support and intervention by the appropriate agencies.

"Food is collected in a number of ways by individuals, schools, churches and businesses."

Local people can help by donating food or volunteering. The spokesman continued: "An enthusiastic core of volunteers are now helping with administration and other tasks, and the teams who will be manning the foodbank centre are now in training. We will open our doors on Tuesday, December 1."

The project's current needs are a larger warehouse, a project manager and office administrator, and more volunteers to help in the office.

For more information, telephone 01656 668870 or email bridgendfoodbank@aol.com

Local businessman sponsors Bridgend Athletic RFC seniors

Wayne Griffiths, the managing director of Nathaniel Cars, has become a sponsor of Bridgend Athletic RFC this season.

Part of the package was to supply the two senior squads with polo shirts for match days.

In the photograph he is shown handing over a polo shirt to club captain Rod Jones.

Read your GEM online - www.bridgend-today.co.uk or www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

TONDU JUNIOR AND MINI RUGBY ROUND UP

Under-10s have some work to do

TONDU under-10s entertained Pentyrch at a soft but mostly puddle-free Pandy Park.

The opening exchanges were a little tentative from both sides, as they weighed each other up. The softness of the ground caused a few slips and slides before the first try was scored by Pentyrch. Due to the strength of the wind, drop kicks were used for conversions.

Tondu tried from the restart to gain ground, but fierce tackling caused the attack to falter, and the visiting forwards started to gain the upper hand. This remained the pattern for the rest of the half with Pentyrch scoring the points and Tondu trying in vain to open their account – and losing ball as players became isolated. Good breaks were made by the Tondu backs at times but the defence was up to the job and kept the pressure on.

With changes made, the Tondu youngsters hoped that their fortune would too. Unfortunately, no one remembered to tell Pentyrch that. However Tondu never stopped trying to make headway, with some good individual breaks from forwards and backs alike.

Good tackling also saw the visitors not having the game all their own way. Pentyrch were able to score three more tries, one converted before the final whistle. **Full time: Tondu 0, Pentyrch 45.**

A second game was played and it was Pentyrch who took the upper hand with an unconverted try. Tondu came back as their bigger forwards tried the direct route, but handling and support were not up to the job, and again attack was turned to defence.

With another rotation of players, the second half was played out. Perhaps Pentyrch were tiring as Tondu seemed to make more ground in this period, but Pentyrch were able to continue scoring with no reply from Tondu. **Full time: Tondu 0, Pentyrch 27**.

Tondu Star of the Game went to Josh Evans. Not the best day at the office for Tondu, but improvements are being made. The skills and passion are there, but the application needs some work.

Tondu squad: Ben Merchant, Eleri Knight, Iwan Knight, Ioan Thomas, Morgan-Owen Evans, Taylor Lloyd, Ryan Kershaw, Morgan David, Jamie Richards, Josh Evans, Jack Llewellyn, Jordan Morgan, Garryn Thomas, Shannon Price, Josh Davies, Megan Flaherty.

JK

Under-9s tested by Pentyrch

THE weather abated for enough time on Sunday morning to allow for an intense, hard-fought game between two under-9 teams unwilling to accept defeat.

Pentyrch took the game to Tondu from the outset, pushing hard toward the try line on a number of occasions, only to be thwarted by committed tackling and aggressive team defence. However, well-organised rucking by the visitors brought the first try of the match.

Tondu rallied well in response and fought hard for the ball. Direct running from Morgan Strong breached the line and the Tondu players worked against a determined defence to recycle the ball to Nathan Harris, who produced a typically scything run to strike back for the home side.

The second period of play the game followed the pattern, with Tondu absorbing sustained pressure; constant harrying by the Tondu players illustrated their determination and slick interpassing by the Tondu players deep in their own half helped clear the line.

Pressure from Pentyrch told, and strong runs by the visitors broke through for a good touchdown.

Tondu were spurred on and straight running and good recycling in the midfield saw Morgan Strong cross for a deserved try.

With the scores level going into the third period, Tondu raised their game. Good passing and driving play from Calum Vause took them into their opponents half and it was against the run of play when Pentyrch scored a good team try, despite aggressive tackling from Cameron Keegans. Pressure from Luke Dingle and Luke Brett forced errors from the visitors and Ieuan Wallis scored a try after earlier brilliantly fielding a high ball.

The tied scoreline was a fair result for two teams who brought equal determination and commitment to the game.

Final score: Tondu 3, Pentyrch 3.

Tondu team: Lewis Oates, Callum Vause, Luke Brett, Daniel Mayne, James Murray, Patrick Riley, Jacob Thomas, Lewis Dyke, Harry Olding, Luke Dingle, Nathan Harris, Cameron Keegans, Morgan Strong, Ieaun Wallis, Morgan Williams.

JM

Cougars shake off first half lethargy

The Cougars team that beat Swansea University.

COUGARS 70
SWANSEA UNIVERSITY 59

THE Cougars faced Swansea University last week in the second round of the South Wales Knockout Cup, having secured a 19-point win in the first leg the week before.

Perhaps motivated by the loss they sustained in the first leg, Swansea raced out to a 12-1 lead to start the game, and surprisingly looked by far the better team.

For whatever reason, the Cougars failed to get out of first gear and really struggled to put the ball in the basket, scoring only nine points to Swansea's 18 in the quarter.

A stern talking-to from head coach Jason Merchant during the brief interval saw the Cougars finally begin to move the ball and play their signature tough team defence.

As a result, Cougars were able to claw themselves back into the game and take a two-point lead into the half-time break.

With order somewhat restored, the Cougars ensured that the university team never led again in the game, despite a resilient performance. Guards Ryan Chambers, Chippy Rees and Rod Went were key for Cougars, each scoring six points in the third quarter, ensuring their team took an 11-point lead into the final period.

The fourth quarter was an evenly-contested affair with both teams trading baskets throughout, resulting in Cougars capturing an 11-point win.

The Cougars now advance in the competition and will be entered into the third round draw, which is due to take place in the coming weeks.

Cougars' player of the game: Chippy Rees.

Pencoed under-10s are back in action at last

PENCOED under-10s took to the field for the first time in five weeks and the team were desperate to play.

Playing at home, they welcomed tough local rivals Bridgend Athletic.

Despite the recent heavy rain, the pitch was in great condition.

In the first game, the Pencoed Reds saw Bridgend Ath make the most of the opening exchanges and they caught Pencoed napping to go into an early lead with a well-taken try, the blustery conditions foiling the subsequent conversion.

This seemed to galvanise the Pencoed team, and from this point on, the crowd were treated to a hard-fought game of rugby.

Relentless pressure saw Pencoed camped in the Ath half, and determined tackling, rucking and mauling forced the Ath to make uncharacteristic errors.

Pencoed were unlucky not to score on a few occasions, with the fine Ath defence holding up several darts to the line.

Pencoed forwards Ben Clarke and Jack Mordecai were able to show their skills with and without the ball in hand, driving hard and showing great tenacity, with outstanding support from captain Josh Richards, Morgan Hayes and Dan Morris.

Several Ath breakouts were snuffed out, but Pencoed continued to press. Scrum half Sion Clarke, outside half Rhys Thompson and centre Dewi Cross in tandem managed to keep the Ath back line honest in both attack and defence, with Rhys Thompson being rewarded with a try from an interception, which was richly deserved. Dewi Cross slotted the conversion to take Pencoed into the lead.

This game was not to be a game for the wingers, with Pencoed's Sam Stead and Lewis Davies's contributions in the main being in defence.

The remainder of the half saw both teams cancelling each other out with Pencoed edging the territory.

To their credit, the Ath team battled and defended with gusto, and eventually their pacey backs engineered a try from a counter-attack.

The second half continued in the same fashion but the Ath started to capitalise on Pencoed errors, and the lack of games took its toll with the team visibly wilting as the game progressed.

The Ath ran in a further two tries, with Pencoed battling to the end. The score was rather flattering in terms of the well matched, hard-fought nature of the game. The final score was Pencoed 7, Bridgend Athletic 26, with Sion Clarke securing the Pencoed man of the match award.

In the second game, Pencoed fielded a completely changed team, with experienced, new and developing players alike hoping to have better luck than the Reds. The forwards battled away against physically bigger opponents, but gained in confidence as the game progressed.

Ellis Brown was a stand out performer with an energetic non-stop performance that was to secure him the man of the match award.

James Neil, Ben Shears and Huw Bridgman all enjoyed great games in the tight exchanges. Alex Newbold too put in a creditable performance in his first outing at scrum half.

Leon Hathway, Ethan Lewis and Josh Russell never stopped trying to take the game to their opposition with determined breaks being ended by an equally determined Ath defence.

Bridgend Ath were the more accomplished outfit and this was to help them ultimately settle the encounter in their favour 26 to nil.

SC

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC JUNIOR AND MINI RUGBY ROUND-UP

Greens come out on top in local derby

BRIDGEND Athletic under-10s made the short trip to Pencoed to play their local rivals for the second time this season.

Considering the blustery conditions both teams tried to play running rugby. The Ath Greens played first, started well and scored when hooker Morgan Hughes picked up at the base of a ruck and dived over.

Pencoed responded and went on numerous attacks, coming close to crossing the Ath's try line but for great defence. The Ath thought they had weathered the storm when Pencoed suddenly intercepted the ball and raced in to level the scores.

The rest of the first half was fairly evenly matched with Jack Walker, Caine Woolerton and Matthew Hobby prominent for the Ath. At halftime the Ath coaches asked for the team to play more in keeping with the conditions and the boys responded well running straighter angles and giving shorter passes.

Forwards Mitchell Davies, Morgan Hughes and Joe Grabham started to impose themselves with strong runs. Scrum half Chris Matthews was able to get better ball out to his backline, giving Caine Woolerton, Nathan Willis and Harry Provstgaard more time. The Ath boys raised their game and and created far more opportunities.

Joe Grabham raced in after he was put in space by a good pass from Chris Matthews, and fly half Caine Woolerton helped himself to a brace of tries after good jinking runs.

The tackling greatly improved in the second period, as did the rucking and Bridgend deservedly took control of the game.

Pencoed were certainly up for the occasion and played their part in a good, hard game. Ath try scorers were Caine Woolerton (two), Joe Grabham and Morgan Hughes, who was awarded the man of the match for his efforts. Conversions were added by Woolerton, Jack Walker and Harry Provstgaard. **Final score: Pencoed 7, Bridgend Athletic Greens 26.**

First win for Yellows

IN the second match between the Ath Yellows and Pencoed development the good play from both sides continued.

Rhys Durlucia, playing in his debut for the Ath, opened the scoring with a great driving run and he stretched over the line to score. The Ath Yellows tackled courageously with Rhys Gamble, Thomas Zielinski and captain Drew Cording putting in several strong tackles.

Upfront Ethan Bennett, Jac Bassett and Lewys Jenkins worked hard in the rucks and mauls, as did Matthew Hibbert who also chipped in with a couple of barn storming runs.

The Ath boys doubled their lead when the ball found its way to flying winger Dylan Parry, who raced in the corner for a great try. It wasn't long before Dylan grabbed his second try, after again the team had managed to put him in space where he could use his pace.

The Yellows continued the good work in the second half, although the home team did put some good passages of play together, but the improvement of the Yellows this year is mainly due to their improvement in their tackling, and Callum Morgan emphasised this effort with his gritty second half display.

The Yellows had never beaten Pencoed but they sensed it was achievable and rounded off their morning in style when Dylan Parry completed his hat-trick just before the final whistle.

Man of the match was awarded to Rhys Durlucia who played excellently in his first run out for the club. Ath try scorers were Dylan Parry (three) and Rhys Durlucia with conversions added by Drew Cording (two) and Jac Bassett.

Final score: Pencoed 0, Ath Yellows 26.

LG

Local derby is a real contest

ON a cold, wet Sunday morning Athletic under-8s and under-7s travelled a short distance for a local derby against Pencoed.

The under-8s started off slowly with Pencoed attacking on every occasion. With the ball being slippery the Ath made a few mistakes and Pencoed capitalised with two breakaway tries.

The passing by both sides was of top quality, but it was Pencoed who scored again just before half time with some good support play.

Then a good run by Mason Edwards on the last play of the half saw him squeeze over in the corner.

The second half saw a big change in the Ath boys, and a couple of good moves led to Isaac Watkins twisting his way to the line to score his first of the day and this seemed to lift the boys. The defence by the Ath was great and they kept Pencoed from scoring on many occasions.

The Ath gained a turn over ball and raced deep into Pencoed territory, only to be tagged just short of the line. A planned move was called and Oliver Raynor raced over in the corner to even up the scores.

Pencoed pressed with every opportunity but the Ath's defence held firm. Isaac Watkins scored again to put the Ath ahead and through good support play he scored again with only a minute left on the clock.

Final score: Bridgend Athletic 5, Pencoed 3.

Player of the match went to Dewi Harding who had a solid all-round game.

The squad: Bobby Bromley, Dafydd Hitchings, Dewi Harding, Emyr Anthony, Isaac Watkins, Iwan Hill, Jack Pitts, Mason Edwards, Mason Hughes, Oliver Raynor and Sam Ralph.

THE under-7s played straight after and, with Pencoed only having a small squad, they played a mixed side under-7s and a few under-8s.

Pencoed got off to a flying start with some strong running, the Ath's defence was stretched and Pencoed scored their first try of the game.

The Ath played some super rugby, getting deep into Pencoed territory on many occasions but the Pencoed team were well organised and stopped any attacks.

Pencoed scored their second half way through the first half after some good passing of the ball. The young Ath side battled hard in a tough encounter and they got their reward with a good try coming from Thomas Lewis. No more tries were scored in the first half but the rugby was of top quality.

The second half saw Pencoed make some changes due to injuries and this proved to be vital. Their defence was strong and held off the constant pressure by the Ath, which led to a few loose passes and Pencoed picked up the ball and raced down the field to score another.

With time running out, the Ath were pushing hard but unfortunately another loose pass landed at the feet of a Pencoed player, and he raced down the field to score with the last play of the game.

Final score: Bridgend Athletic 1, Pencoed 4.

Player of the match went to Ellis Penman who played extremely well.

The squad: Connor Lees, Ryley Howells, Ellis Penman, Euan Rees, Fynn Mordecai, Ieuan Pippin, Jordan Gittins, Lloyd Anthony, Lloyd Bennett, Callum Taylor, Rhys Thomas and Thomas Lewis.

AB

Tournament experience for young players

BRIDGEND Athletic under-7s and under-8s travelled to England to enter the Saracen's mini festival of rugby.

There were to be five games played with a winner take all points system. Both teams played their matches at the same time, against the same teams.

Game 1: Bridgend Athletic v Maidenhead

Ath under-7s 3, Maidenhead 3. Ath under-8s 6, Maidenhead 4.

Game 2: Bridgend Athletic v Sandal.

Ath under-7s 1, Sandal 4. Ath under-8s 1, Sandal 1.

Game 3: Bridgend Athletic v Amersham and Chiltern.

Ath under-7s 1, Amersham and Chiltern 5. Ath under-8s 3, Amersham and Chiltern 3.

Game 4: Bridgend Athletic v Ruislip.

Ath under-7s 8, Ruislip 3. Ath under-8s 5, Ruislip 2.

Game 5: Bridgend Athletic v Saracens.

Ath under-7s 3, Saracens under-7s 5. Ath under-8s 3, Saracens 6.

Both teams did exceptionally well in what was a very long day. The under-7s came fourth in their group and the under-8s came second in their group well done.

The squads: Under-7s – Connor Lees, Ryley Howells, Ellis Penman, Fyn Mordecai, Ieuan Pippin, Jordan Gittins, Lloyd Bennett, Rhys Thomas and Daniel Elias.

Under-8s – Bobby Bromley, Dafydd Hitchings, Daniel Leyshon, Dewi Harding, Isaac Watkins, Iwan Hill, Mason Edwards, Mason Hughes, Morgan Bennett, Oliver Raynor and Sam Ralph.

ATH UNDER-9s ARE TESTED BY PENCOED

BRIDGEND Athletic under-9s visited Pencoed with some key players unavailable, due to sickness and injury.

Pencoed were at full strength but, even though they scored the only tries of the first half, they did not have it all their own way. There was some good running from Sam Veasey, Jamie Marshall, Kasari Mehta and Charles Creffield.

All of the Ath players were putting their fair share of tackles in and good strength from Jack Obbard and Gwilym John, as always, with their driving and ripping, caused all sorts of trouble for the Pencoed pack. Pencoed went in with a half time lead of 2-0.

In the second half, the Ath allowed Pencoed through on two further occasions. Ath were not done, and there were good drives from Ffion Revill, Brandyn Fooks and Louis King, allowing the backs to pass the ball along the lineout to Sam Veasey, who raced to the corner for a good score.

Charles Creffield made way for James Hermolle, who put in some fine tackles. It was Pencoed who had the final say and scored a well deserved last try. Once again Connor Fabian kicked with some good touch finders, to get his side out of trouble on a few occasions. Connor walked away with the player of the match award. **Final score: Pencoed 5, Ath Greens 1.**

The second game saw the Yellow players who had stepped up to play in the first game, have some extra game time by re-joining their team, but they were still short, so captain, Gwilym John joined them.

This game was really entertaining. There was good tackling from both sides, for the Ath from James Hermolle and Christopher Hart. Charles Creffield, Ffion Revill and Morgan Evans driving the mauls forward on a number of occasions. The Yellows seemed to play more has a team, passing the ball around and supporting each other. The half time score was 3-0.

The second half saw one change, with Jack Obbard, adding bulk to the forwards and this half was no different, the backs; Josh Tidy, William Goodall, Cai Robinson and Daffydd Beech were once again playing for each other, passing before taking contact, allowing each other to run into space.

Pencoed got the first try of the second half. In the close contact areas, the forwards were taking no prisoners, and from the next forward play, Gwilym John picked and drove over for a well-deserved try.

A trio of tries then came from Pencoed. This did not dishearten the Yellows one bit. With time running out, the Ath headed, towards Pencoed's line, with the forwards taking the ball on. Then from a loose ball, Josh Tidy picked the ball up and still with some work to do, exploited a few gaps and sidestepped his way in to score a memorable try.

Josh's all round play earned him player of the match. **Final score: Pencoed 7, Ath Yellows 2.**

PO

Second soccer course keeps Porthcawl youngsters busy

All the course members sporting their certificates with officials from Swansea Football Club and PCSO Leighton Rees, seated far right.

FOR the second year running, Leighton Rees, one of the police community support officers stationed in Porthcawl, organised a successful summer holiday soccer course in conjunction with Swansea Football Club.

The three-day course was held at Porthcawl Nottage Primary School and boys and girls aged six to 13 years were encouraged to attend, and each course member received a certificate on completion of the course.

Determined Porthcawl under-10s hold onto record against Bryncethin

AFTER having their last three games called off, Porthcawl under-10s were like caged tigers as they took on a useful looking Bryncethin team.

The rain held off for just long enough for the boys to play, which was just as well because the pitch was saturated. Joe Stradling, now playing at centre,was back to his scintillating best with a try almost from the kick-off.

After some excellent rucking by the forwards, the ball was passed (yes passed) along the line to Joe who showed a clean pair of heels to the Bryncethin defence. Joe, scored two more after some fine ball winning from the forwards.

Outside half, Brandon Cooper, converted both tries with the minimum of fuss.

After ringing the changes, Porthcawl started to struggle but this only made for a tighter game. Bryncethin scored next after an interception by their fine outside-half. This was converted and, all of a sudden, the home side were back in the chase. The half-time score was 19-7 to the Seaweeds and they were now looking forward to playing down hill.

This unfortunately, didn't seem to help Porthcawl as they continued to struggle against Bryncethin's robust forwards. It came as no surprise that the red and greens scored next to set up a nervous finish for Porthcawl.

The Seaweeds hadn't lost since last December and they weren't about to let that record slip. After a strong finish, Porthcawl managed to hang on to their slender lead and end the game victors by 19 points to 12.

All credit to Bryncethin who made all the team very welcome.

Back of the match was Joe Stradling. Forward of the match was Max Budding.

The rest of the squad was: Ethan Waters, Connor Grant, Ben Collins, Callum Morgan, Dan Williams, Matthew Roberts, Louis Protheroe, Zakk Furness-Jones, Kurtis Pridmore, Ben Davies, Ben Roach, Connor Harrington-Pittam, Meuryn Nelson, Joe Beale, Harry Beale, Sam Edwards, Lloyd Mortimer.

IB

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Birthdays

Fred Austin

Happy 80th Birthday

2nd December 2009

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Have a great party on the 5th!

XXXXX

Happy 16th Birthday!

Jade Bennett

26th November

Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Nan & Grampy, Mark, Stacy, Braiden & Bump. XXXXX

ADELE BAKER

HAPPY

40th + 10

BIRTHDAY

Lots of love

Tony, Jodie, Leigh, Matthew, Emerald and Tiyren XXX

Congratulations

Golden Wedding Anniversary

28th November 2009

Jim & Doreen O'Callaghan

Congratulations Mum and Dad on your Golden Wedding Anniversary.

All our love, Lynne, Rhys, Ashley, Lina and the girls.

XXXXX

Family Notices

WOOD Winnie

Peacefully on November 11 at Llandough Hospital, in her 96th year, Winnie (Win) of Rhoose.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday December 1, service 1.15pm at Bethel Church, Castle Road, Rhoose, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

LYNCH Bronwen

Peacefully, on Nov 18 at her home in Llantwit Major, Bronwen (Bron) beloved wife of Terry, wonderful mother of Alison, Robert and Andrew, a much loved grandmother of Jessica, Georgia and Harry.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon, where family flowers may be sent. Funeral Fri Dec 4, service 2pm at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. Donations if desired may be sent to Save The Children Fund c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

ARNOLD

Terence Norman (Terry)

Peacefully at Holme Towers on Friday November 20, 2009, Terry, beloved and best friend of Marian, Llanblethian, Cowbridge.

Loving brother of Jillian and Pauline and brother-in-law to Jane and Russell.

Devoted uncle to his nephews and nieces.

Funeral Tuesday December 1 at Llanblethian Church, at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Llanblethian Church. Family flowers only, but donations if required to Holme Towers, care of Thomas Bros., Mitson Cottages, Llandough, Cowbridge CF77 7LR.

John Allen

Hilary and family would like to thank friends for attending the funeral of John Allen on November 18, 2009, and for their cards and words of support and comfort.

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Public Notices

ASIANTAETH YR AMGYLCHEDD DEDDF ADNODDAU DŴR 1991 (FEL Y'I NEWIDIWYD GAN DDEDDF YR AMGYLCHEDD 1995) RHYBUDD O GAIS AM GANIATÂD AT DDIBENION ADRAN 88

RHODDIR RHYBUDD DRWY HYN yn unol ag Atodlen 10 Deddf Adnoddau Dŵr 1991 bod cais wedi'i gyflwyno gan Gyngor Bro Morgannwg i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd am ganiatâd i ollwng hyd at 7.9 metr ciwbig y dydd o elifion carthion domestig sydd wedi cael triniaeth drydyddol i mewn i'r ddaear drwy system ymdreiddio yng Nghyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol SS 91903 68863, o Waith Trin Carthion Marcroes, Marcroes, Llanilltud Fawr, CF61 1ZG.

Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau ynghylch y cais wneud hynny'n ysgrifenedig drwy anfon y sylwadau at Grant Wilson, Arweinydd Tim yn y cyfeiriad canlynol: The Environment Agency, Water Quality Permitting Support Centre, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield, S9 4WF. Dylid cyflwyno'r sylwadau rhwng 26/11/09 a 7/1/10 gan ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod NPSWQD009606.

Dylech fod yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith y gall unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir fod ar gael i drydydd partion eu gweld dan y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth neu Reoliadau Gwybodaeth Amgylcheddol 2004.

Gellir gweld copi o'r cais yn rhad ac am ddim yn swyddfa leol Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn y cyfeiriad canlynol: Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru, Y Gofrestr Gyhoeddus, Maes Newydd, Llandarsi, Castell-nedd Port Talbot, SA10 6JQ rhwng 9am a 4.30pm o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener (heblaw am Wyliau Banc). Dylech gysylltu ymlaen llaw i drefnu apwyntiad drwy ffonio'r Ganolfan Cyswllt Cwsmeriaid Genedlaethol ar 08708 506 506.

Simon Grantham
Ar ran Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd
Dyddiedig 26/11/09

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991 (AS AMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995) NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 88

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Water Resources Act 1991 that an application has been made to the Environment Agency by Vale of Glamorgan Council for consent to discharge up to 7.9 cubic metres per day of Tertiary treated domestic sewage effluent to ground via an infiltration system at National Grid Reference SS 91903 68863 from Marcross Sewage Treatment Works, Marcross, Llantwit Major, CF61 1ZG.

Any person who wishes to make representations about the application should do so in writing to Grant Wilson, Team Leader, The Environment Agency, Water Quality Permitting Support Centre, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield, S9 4WF, during the period 26/11/09 to 7/1/10 quoting reference NPSWQD009606.

Please be aware that any representation may be made available to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge at the Local Environment Agency office at Environment Agency Wales, Public Register, Maes Newydd, Llandarcy, Neath Port Talbot, SA10 6JQ between the hours of 9 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays). Please ring in advance to arrange an appointment by calling the National Customer Contact Centre on 08708 506 506.

Simon Grantham
On behalf of The Environment Agency
Dated 26/11/09

NOTICE

LICENSING ACT 2003

BEN BENNETT has applied for the variation of a premises licence pursuant to Sections 34/37 of the Licensing Act, 2003 for the following licensing activities at Gordon Bennett, 12-14 Broad Street, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan.

This application is to vary the premises licence to provide regulated entertainment from Monday to Thursday between 1000 and 2400 hours and on Friday and Saturday from 1000 to 0300 hours and on Sunday between 1100 and 0300 hours and the sale by retail of alcohol on Monday to Thursday from 1000 to 2400 hours and on Friday to Sunday 1000 to 0300 hours.

This application also includes the removal of a number of converted conditions.

The application can be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Section, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 4RU.

Any interested party responsible authority may make representations to the relevant Licensing Authority by the 18th day of December 2009.

Any representation shall be made in writing.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.00.

The Glamorgan **GEM**

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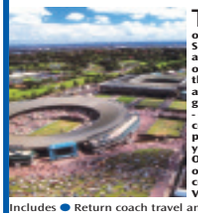

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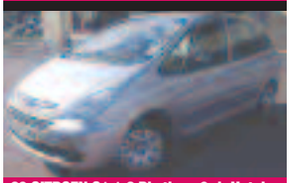

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CITROEN C1

08	1.0 Rhythm 3dr Hatch	Grey	12,560 miles	£6,995

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CITROEN C4

08	1.6HDi 16v VTR PLus 3dr Dsl	Silver	10,364 miles	£8,995
56	1.6iHDi 16v SX 5dr Dsl Hatch	Silver	19,000 miles	£7,995
56	1.6 16v Cool 3-dr Coupe Sp Eds	Silver	29,002 miles	£6,995
55	1.6i 16v SX 5-dr Auto Hatch	Silver	25,700 miles	£6,495
05	1.4i16v VT 3-dr Coupe	Black	31,079	£4,995

CITROEN C4 PICASSO

08	1.6HDi 16v VTR Plus 5dr D Est	Black	12,670 miles	£14.495
57	2.0i 16v SX 5dr EGS Estate	Silver	7,723 miles	£10,995

CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO

08	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Blue	8,749 miles	£14,995
58	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Grey	19,441 miles	£14,995
57	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Mauve	12,659 miles	£13,995

CITROEN C5

09	1.6HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr Dsl	Red	4,518 miles	£14,995

CITROEN C8

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175/70TR14	Bridgestone B250	£57.79	£110	£200	175/70TR14 Avon CR322	£45.27	£85	£160	175/70TR14 Hero	£29.05	£55	£105
175/65TR14	Bridgestone B250	£47.15	£89	£170	175/65TR14 Avon CR322	£40.10	£75	£140	175/65TR14 Federal	£30.59	£59	£115

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185/65HR14	Bridgestone B250	£63.83	£120	£225	185/65HR14 Avon ZV3	£50.51	£95	£185	185/65HR14 Hero	£31.38	£60	£115
185/65HR15	Bridgestone ER300	£73.84	£140	£265	185/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£54.89	£105	£199	185/65HR15 Federal	£35.88	£67	£130
195/65HR15	Bridgestone B250	£66.20	£125	£235	195/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£52.02	£99	£190	195/65HR15 Hero	£34.90	£65	£125

HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES — FROM £33.52

Size	Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon Tyres	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/50VR15	Bridgestone ER300	£51.85	£99	£189	195/50VR15 Avon ZV3	£45.83	£85	£160	195/50VR15 Hero	£33.52	£65	£125
195/60VR15	Bridgestone ER300	£68.71	£130	£249	195/60VR15 Avon ZV5	£58.66	£112	£215	195/60VR15 Federal	£37.96	£72	£140
195/65VR15	Bridgestone ER300	£64.34	£120	£230	195/65VR15 Avon ZV5	£51.14	£97	£185	195/65VR15 Federal	£39.06	£75	£145
205/55VR16	Bridgestone ER300	£66.73	£125	£235	205/55VR16 Avon ZV5	£62.66	£120	£230	205/55VR16 Federal	£46.86	£90	£175

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Size	Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon Tyres	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
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205/55WR16	Bridgestone ER300	£72.40	£140	£265	205/55WR16 Avon ZV5	£66.20	£128	£249	205/55WR16 Hero	£47.62	£89	£170
225/45YR17	Bridgestone RE050	£102.54	£195	£375	225/45YR17 XL Avon ZV5	£85.94	£165	£320	225/45WR17 XL Hero	£49.46	£94	£180
225/40YR18 XL	Br'stone RE050	£115.98	£220	£420	225/40YR18 XL Avon ZV5	£103.62	£199	£385	225/40WR18 Hero	£58.70	£110	£210

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Five Bridgend girls star in cross country championships

South Wales Regional School cross-country

by PETE MORRIS

FIVE girls from Bridgend County Borough claimed individual medals at the 12th South Wales Regional Schools cross-country championships for girls, held, for the third consecutive year, by Steve Brace and his Bridgend AC clubhouse at Newbridge Fields.

The opening race, the senior event for pupils in year-11 and the sixth form, was dominated by last year's defending title-holder, year-12 Zoe Thomas (Porthcawl) and under-15 champion and Cwmfelin resident, Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari).

Cwmfelin resident Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari) added the senior title to her 2008 win at u15.

With Thomas having won her section each time for the last four years, there was significant pressure on her and she trailed home a distant second – looking very under the weather, as well as admitting that she had fallen on the course.

That win for Lewis, who attends YG Llanhari in Rhondda Cynon Taf, will do much to boost her self-confidence, and it will be interesting to follow her progress in the major races this winter. Her big rivals in year 11 are the Price twins from Llandrindod in Powys, Ffion and Rhianwedd.

There was a surprise individual result in the under-13 race, arguably the toughest of the day. Jazmine Briganti (Brynteg), second in last year's race, the pre-race favourite, led the field for much of the race but she was tracked by another year-8, Annabel Curle of Cowbridge, who then proved to be the stronger in the closing stages, claiming victory by the margin of one second.

Brynteg year 8 Jazmine Briganti had to settle for second place in the u13 race.

Because of the number of participants, eight individual medals are awarded at under-13, and Bridgend county girls gained a further two. Year-8 Nia Ward, 10th in last year's fixture, claimed a first-ever medal for Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd in claiming fourth place, while Rosa Yates (Brynteg) showed considerable potential by finishing seventh, the first year-7 to finish.

In the final event of the afternoon, the under-15 race, the only one to be held in a rain shower, year-10 Jessica Hegarty (Brynteg) was the highest placed Bridgend girl, finishing seventh.

Only one Bridgend squad claimed team medals – the Brynteg under-13 squad of Briganti, Yates, Sinead Loundes (44th) and Elizabeth Grandville (46th) lost the second placed medals by one point to Cardiff's Whitchurch High – but mention must be made of another Bridgend county school. Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd only opened it's doors in 2008 with a year-7 intake.

Rosa Yates (Brynteg, 7th), the first year 7 girl to finish in the u13 race.

This year, they have extended to a second year group, but have had little time to prepare for this event, yet, with Ms Caryl James of the PE Department as team manager, they deserve great credit for fielding two under-13 teams at a time when seven of the Bridgend secondary schools did not field a single competitor!

Bridgend AC team-mates Jessica Hegarty (Brynteg, 282) and Fiona Bray (Cowbridge, 80) battle it out for seventh place in the u15 race.

With the regional championships completed, interest will now switch to selection, as the south Wales regional team manager, Mrs Julie Jones of Llantwit, finalises the squads of 15 to compete at the 12th Welsh Inter Regional championships at Builth Wells on December 13.

Results – Bridgend girls

Senior Girls (4.4 km) – Years-11 to 14

1 Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari) 16:10; 2 Zoe Thomas (P'cawl) 16:52; 30 Jessica Avons (B'teg) 23:59

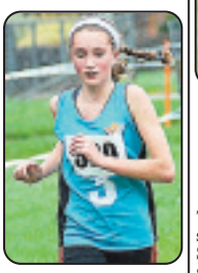
Under-15 girls (3.7 km) – Years 9 and 10

7 Jessica Hegarty (B'teg) 14:06; 23 Hollie Short (P'cawl) 15:26; 39 Angharad Masson (P'cawl) 16:19; 47 Isabel Hughes (B'teg) 16:36; 86 Charlotte Mundy (P'cawl) 18:27; 92 Bethan Masson (P'cawl); 93 Robyn Wilkins (P'cawl); 96 Stephanie Kelly (P'cawl); 119 Lauren Downes (P'cawl); 124 Lucy Damachowski (B'teg); 126 Lucy Ellis (B'teg); 127 Jessica Miles (B'teg)

Teams: 11 Porthcawl 240; 13 Brynteg 304

Under-13 girls (2.8 km) – Years 7 and 8

2 Jazmine Briganti (B'teg) 9:57; 4 Nia Ward (YG Ll'wyd) 10:15; 7 Rosa Yates (B'teg) 10:21; 14 Olivia Norris (P'cawl) 10:51; 44 Sinead Loundes (B'teg) 11:54; 48 Elizabeth Grandville (B'teg); 60 Chantelle Jones (B'teg); 65 Shahnann Purcell (Ogmore); 68 Bethan Eales (P'cawl); 78 Natalia Londero (Ogmore); 95 Bronwyn Wictome (B'teg); 105 Jodie Grabham (YG Ll'wyd); 110 Emily Kembery (Ogmore); 111 Gabrielle Haxton (B'teg); 119 Catrin Masson (YG Ll'wyd); 122 Lauren Harris (P'cawl); 126 Ffion Wareham (Ogmore); 127 Megan Elsbury (Ogmore); 130 Louisa Carr (Ogmore); 135 Emily Brice (YG Ll'wyd); 136 Caitlin Perry (YG Ll'wyd); 137 Lydia Davies (Ogmore); 138 Ffion Wilkins (P'cawl); 139 Grace Merritt (Ogmore); 141 Gwenan Jenkins (YG Ll'wyd); 149 Abbey Parsons (B'teg); 157 Ffion Morgan (YG Ll'wyd); 158 Maisie Isaac (Ogmore); 159 Carys Hopkins (Ogmore); 163 Emily Bennett (Ogmore); 170 Sophia Parker (YG Ll'wyd); 174 Becky Wardman (P'cawl); 185 Shauna Williams (B'teg); 191 Nia Vaughan (B'teg); 192 Chloe Stringer (P'cawl); 199 Caitlin James (Ogmore); 203 Bethan David (Ogmore); 204 Chloe Stanford (Ogmore); 218 Ellie Morrison (B'teg); 219 Nia Grinnell (B'teg).



Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd year 8 pupil Nia Ward claimed the school's first ever medal at this event.

Zoe Thomas (Porthcawl) had to settle for second in the senior race.

Teams: A Teams: 3 Brynteg 101; 14 Porthcawl 342; 15 YG Llangynwyd 363; 17 Ogmore 379; B Teams: 7 Brynteg B 415; 12 Ogmore B 533; 15 YG Llangynwyd B 604; 18 Ogmore C 679; 22 Brynteg C 813

COWBRIDGE GIRL TAKES TITLE BY JUST ONE SECOND!

Photos by IAN DIXON.

South Wales Regional School cross-country championships

ABOVE: Annabel Curle (Cowbridge) - double gold medallist.

ABOVE: Individual second but team gold for Megan Osborne (Llantwit).

ABOVE: Holly Preece (87) and Alyson Bater (88), the first two finishers for the third placed Cowbridge senior team.

There was joy for pupils from four Vale schools at the 12th South Wales Regional Schools cross-country championships for girls, held, for the third consecutive year, by Steve Brace and his Bridgend AC clubhouse at Newbridge Fields.

The opening race, the senior event for pupils in year 11 and the sixth form, was dominated by last year's defending title-holder, Zoe Thomas (Porthcawl) and under-15 champion, Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari), with Lewis claiming the win.

Behind them, it was the much improved Bethan Daw, sadly the only St Cyres competitor, who took the bronze medal for third place.

More individual medals are awarded in the younger age groups, because of the greater numbers of participants – five in the under-15 race for pupils in years 9 and 10, and eight at under-13 (years 7 and 8).

There was a surprise individual result in the under-13 race, arguably the toughest of the day. Jazmine Briganti (Brynteg), second in last year's race, the pre-race favourite, led the field for much of the race but she was tracked by another year-8, Annabel Curle of Cowbridge, who then proved to be the stronger in the closing stages, claiming victory by just one second. Also gaining medals were Kate Coker (Stanwell, fourth) and Erin Hayes (Llantwit, sixth).

The final event of the afternoon, the under-15 race, the only one to be held in a rain shower, brought a head to head between the last two under-13 champions – Megan Osborne (Llantwit, 2007) and Rebecca Evans (Y Pant, 2008).

Although she has had comfortable wins in both of the Cardiff & the Vale Schools leagues at Trelai, Osborne was no match for Evans on this occasion and had to settle for second place.

In addition to the individual medals, there were also team successes. The Cowbridge girls can feel particularly pleased as they were placed in all three age groups – second in the seniors, third at under-15, and clear winners in the under-13 race thanks to the quartet of Curle, Jordan Carpenter (ninth), Elinor Bishop (26th) and Rebecca Thomas (30th). That under-13 team title has been won for the last two years by Llantwit – and they did not go away empty handed. With the girls moving up a section, they claimed the under-15 title thanks to the efforts of Osborne, Anthea Young (8th), Lucy Tarrant (11th) and Aimee Price 46th).

With the regional championships completed, interest will now switch to selection as the south Wales team manager, Mrs Julie Jones of Llantwit, finalises the squads of fifteen to compete at the 12th Welsh Inter Regional championships at Builth Wells on December 13th.

News is also expected of the girls to be invited to compete for Cardiff & the Vale Schools at the Inter-District and Inter-Counties Schools match to be held as part of Cardiff UK Cross Challenge, at Blackweir, on Sunday, January 17th, 2010.

Results of Vale Girls

Senior girls (4.4 km) – Years 11 to 14 – 39 finishers

3 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) 16:57; 12 Amy Baldry (Lwt) 20:55; 14 Holly Preece (Cow) 21:32; 15 Alyson Bater (Cow) 21:35; 21 Lucy Williams (Cow) 22:32; 22 Natalie Parsons (Lwt) 22:51; 24 Rosie Dent (Cow) 22:56; 27 Verity Morgan (Cow) 23:39; 37 Seren Carter (Lwt) 28:14; 38 Katie Prinn (Lwt) 28:15

Teams: 2 Cowbridge 74; 6 Llantwit 109

Erin Hayes (Llantwit), sixth placed medal in the under-13 race.

Under-15 girls (3.7 km) – Years 10 & 11 – 127 finishers

2 Megan Osborne (Lwt) 13:25; 8 Anthea Young (Lwt) 14:14; 11 Lucy Tarrant (Lwt) 14:23; 12 Fiona Bray (Cow) 14:28; 22 Mirriam Bennett (Cow) 15:17; 26 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 15:41; 30 Kanisha-Mae Underdown (Bryn H) 15:48; 37 Rebecca John (Cow) 16:17; 46 Katy Mellin (Bryn H) 16:31; 49 Aimee Price (Lwt) 16:41; 53 Ella Hughes (Lwt) 16:52; 63 Melissa Gooding (Cow) 17:29; 67 Jodie Price (Bryn H) 17:35; 68 Hannah Jones (Bryn H) 17:40; 74 Bethany Cleave (Lwt) 18:05; 82 Sarah Herbert (Bryn H); 83 Aimee Parsons (Lwt); 89 Katie Mills (Bryn H); 95 Emily Bonney (Cow); 103 Sophie Pitcock (Cow); 109 Zoe Hodgkinson (Bryn H); 117 Sophie George (Lwt)

Teams: 1 Llantwit 70; 3 Cowbridge 97; 10 Bryn Hafren 211; B Teams: 4 Llantwit B 327

Under-13 girls (2.8 km) – Years 7 & 8 – 231 finishers

1 Annabel Curle (Cow) 09:56; 5 Kate Coker (Stan) 10:16; 6 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 10:18; 9 Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 10:32; 15 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 10:53; 19 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 11:13; 24 Chloe Lewis (Stan) 11:26; 25 Anna Mirza-Davies (Stan) 11:31; 26 Elinor Bishop (Cow) 11:32; 30 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 11:38; 33 Alice Tudor (Cow); 37 Chloe Hughes (Lwt); 45 Lydia Parsons (Lwt); 47 Charlotte Webber (Bryn H); 48 Elizabeth Grandville Brynteg; 56 Laura Gale (Stan); 59 Nadine James (Cow); 69 Zola Hargreaves (Stan); 72 Sophie Morse (Bryn H); 75 Brooke Langden-Cryer (Cow); 76 Jess Cushin (Bryn H); 81 Josie Price (Lwt); 85 Dominique Mears (Cow); 86 Laura Braggins (Lwt); 87 Maisie Squire (Stan); 88 Evie Williams (Cow); 93 Ella Dyer (Stan); 96 Eleanor Hicks (Lwt); 98 Ela Emyr (Cow); 113 Ffion Hopkin (Cow); 115 Laura Young (Lwt); 116 Niamh Gallagher (Cow); 121 Sophie Thomas (Cow); 125 Devon Perry (Lwt); 132 Nicole Rose (Stan); 134 Laurie Thomas (Cow); 150 Jenny Arthur (Stan); 151 Yoko Hargreaves (Stan); 164 Emma Davies (Stan); 165 Alex Hopkins (Bryn H); 166 Emma Young (Lwt); 167 Milly Williams (Stan); 178 Suzie Collins (Stan); 179 Bethany King (Lwt); 183 Rhian Thomas (Lwt); 184 Rebecca Horne (Lwt); 200 Tamara Pitt (Lwt); 201 Rhian Jones (Lwt); 208 Aimee Miller (Lwt); 209 Georgia Harris (Lwt); 212 Molly Brown (Lwt); 214 Melissa Gray (Lwt)

Teams: 1 Cowbridge 66; 5 Stanwell 110; 7 Bryn Hafren 153; 10 Llantwit 169; B Teams: 2 Cowbridge B 252; 6 Stanwell B 381; 8 Cowbridge C 415; 10 Llantwit B 422; 16 Stanwell C 632; 19 Llantwit C 712; 23 Llantwit D 818.

Winners take a bow at the Brynhill Golf Club

MEMBERS of Brynhill Golf Club dressed in their finery and came together at the clubhouse to recognise the achievements of its members in 2009.

The proceedings were conducted by club captain Colin Lloyd and his vice-captain, John Kirkpatrick – but were opened by lady captain Jo Hopkins and vice-captain Linda Hewlett.

Some of the many presentations made included: Lady champion – Sam Pascoe; Rabbits and Tigers winners – Olwen Thomas and Chris Hopkins; Peggy Lane Cup – Helene Cook; Lady Reardon-Smith Silver Salver – Diane Tapscott and Nicci Meheut; John Lowden Cup – Gemma Evans; Bob Hope Rose Bowl bronze section – Sue Holland; Four-Ball Better Ball trophy – Lynne Bubbins and Carole Allen.

The Jenny Williams trophy was presented to Robbie Lee by the lady captain, saying "she was the sort of person anyone would want on their team, willing to help on all occasions."

At the conclusion of all the presentations and in time-honoured tradition cups were filled with beverages and passed around for toasts.

JP

Carole Allen and Lynne Bubbins, Four-Ball Better Ball trophy winners, with lady captain Jo Hopkins..

Bob Hope Rose Bowl, bronze winner Sue Holland.

Club champion Sam Pascoe.

Nicci Meheut and Di Tapscott, Lady Reardon-Smith Silver Salver winners with the lady captain (centre)..

ACCOLADE FOR LOCAL OLYMPIANS

Sporting stars enter the Vale Hall of Fame

TWO local sports stars were the first to be named in the Vale of Glamorgan's new Hall of Fame recently at the County Library in Barry.

Officially opened by Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams, and the Mayoress, the hall recognises the international sporting and cultural achievements of people who have an association with the Vale.

Olympic and world silver medallist swimmer David Davies, from Barry, and Olympic, World and British road race cycling champion Nicole Cooke, from Wick, were the first to be honoured with mounted plaques.

They were unable to attend due to training commitments, and were represented by their families.

David's grandparents, Mr and Mrs Stark, proudly represented their grandson. Mr Stark said: "We are happy to attend any event in David's place and celebrate his achievements.

"He's always been very dedicated and that shows through his success. I know he's pleased to have received this award."

Denise Cooke, who represented her daughter, Nicole, said: "I'd like to thank everyone for supporting Nicole. We're very proud of her and I'd like to extend my thanks to the council for honouring her, and David's, sporting achievements."

Coun Williams said: "Through the hard work and commitment to their sport, they have become local heroes and will act as role models to the young people of the Vale.

"We hope the council's recognition of their achievements in the Hall of Fame will inspire young people to succeed in their chosen field."

Pictured are Mayoress Joan Williams, chief executive John Maitland Evans, Coun Emlyn Williams, Council Leader Gordon Kemp, Denise Cooke, senior librarian Sandra Wildsmith, Mr and Mrs Brian Stark.

The Cowbridge Squash Club is going greener

COWBRIDGE Squash Club has announced that, thanks to a grant supported by the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services, through the Kick Start 111 Grant Scheme, the club is about to reduce its carbon footprint substantially by installing roofing insulation in all three of its courts.

A spokesman said: "Many thanks to Gareth Simpson, who instigated the grant application, and Mike Board, Nick Merrett, Graham Bradwick and Ian Taylor for their work in the preparation of the costings.

"Also to Lyn Thomas of the Cowbridge Rugby Club for his help."

Now the funding has been put in place, the club will be looking for volunteers to install the material in the near future.

All members who are prepared to give a few hours of their time should let Mike Board know, as he will be project managing the purchasing and installation of the material.

Missed tackles cost Llantwit under-12s dear

ON Sunday, November 15, Llantwit under-12s played Gwernyfed, near Brecon, at home in the first round of the Blues competition.

Llantwit started well, with the forwards winning good ball. The ball came out to the Llantwit backs on halfway where Richard Dangerfield beat a couple of defenders and ran 45 metres to score under the posts for Iestyn Jones to convert.

Both packs fought hard for possession with good drives from Gwernyfed, and they drew level with a try.

In the second half, the Llantwit forwards continued to win ball but Llantwit didn't move it to the wings and chances went begging.

Gwernyfed backs moved the ball at pace and a series of missed tackles let them in twice to make the final score 17-7.

Good luck to them in the next round.

SR

Harriers' quiz night

HIGH STREET Harriers FC are having a fundraising quiz night at The Ship (Hungry Horse) in Barry, on Friday, December 4, at 7pm.

It costs £10 per team (up to four in each team) to enter and the Hungry Horse has donated a voucher for a prize.

There will also be a raffle with lots of prizes.

Pre-booking is a necessity, contact Justin on 07894 758164.

Under-11s cruise to Blues Cup victory

COWBRIDGE	**49**
CRICC	**14**

COWBRIDGE under-11s progressed to the second round of the Blues Cup with a convincing win against CRICC.

Within minutes of the kick-off, Cowbridge opened the scoring with a try by Rhys Barnard. Tries followed from James Holder and Cai Evans, all converted by Cai Evans, giving the home side a 21-point lead.

CRICC hit back with a good try and only brave tackling by Seán Davies and Matthew Keating prevented CRICC scoring again. Just before half-time, Dan Bunny scored for Cowbridge to ease the pressure. Outstanding forward play by Duncan Ace, Harry Hopkins and Tomos Evans-Williams, and good tackling from Charlie Martin and Toff Patel contributed to further tries by James Holder, Dan Bunney and Osian John.

Although CRICC scored a consolation try, Cowbridge completed a deserved win.

In a second match, Cowbridge ran out winners by 14-12. Try scorers for Cowbridge were Sam John and Harrison Stevens, both converted by Charlie Pegrum.

Full squad: Osian John, Cai Evans, Rhys Barnard, James Holder, Harrison Stevens, Sean Davies, Charlie Pegrum, Toff Patel, Michael Thomas, Duncan Ace, Charlie Martin, Mathew Keating, Harry Hopkins, Joe Watts, Dan Bunney, Tomos Evan-Williams.

ML

Local businessman makes Sully Sports FC the leaders of fashion!

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07 **07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In Onyx black with Madrid black/grey interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 29,405 miles **£8,495**

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04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£7,995**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110bhp GTi 3-dr Hatchback.** In Sahara yellow with half anthracite leather/suede interior, digital air con, multi CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles **£6,995**

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07 **07 FORD Focus 1.8 TDi Ghia 5-dr Hatchback.** Moondust silver, ebony leather interior, heated seats, a/c, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 30,720 miles **£9,995**

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06 **06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 16V SE 5-dr Hatchback.** In hurricane grey with Ikho black interior, front fog lights, multi CD, air con, rear parking sensors, only 40,018 miles **£6,995**

06 **56 RENAULT Megane 1.5DCi 86 Dynamique 5-dr hatchback.** In gunmetal grey with carbon grey interior, cd, air con, alloys, front fogs, body coloured bumpers, service history, only 24,155 miles **£6,995**

05 **55 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v 110hp Exclusive 5-dr MPV.** Oriental blue, blue interior, cruise, auto a/c, front fogs, steering wheel mounted audio controls, only 32,355 miles **£6,495**

05 **54 CITROEN Xsara Picasso Exclusive 1.6HDi.** In icelandic green metallic with doris blue interior, cruise control, climate control, alloy wheels, trip computer, cd, 1 owner, only 29,420 miles **£7,495**

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X **00 TVR Tuscan 4.01 V8 360bhp.** In crystal topaz pearl blue with portland grey leather interior, cd, 18" spyder alloy wheels, e/windows, cat 1 alarm, e/mirrors, a/c, substantial workshop portfolio, supreme example, only 36,000 miles **£12,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£11,995**

04 **54 AUDI TT Coupe 1.8 T Quattro (225).** In ebony black met, with full black leather, alicantara upholstery, heated seats, trip computer, climate, traction control, 6 cd auto changer, only 68,710 miles **£11,995**

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04 **04 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In Platinum silver with dark grey interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, CD, front fogs, only 37,700 miles **£4,795**

05 **05 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 16v Sport 5-dr Hatchback** in aluminium silver with dark interior, cd, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, only 31,000 miles **£5,995**

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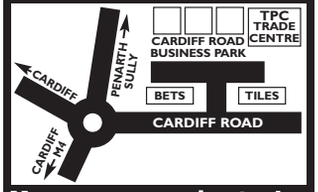

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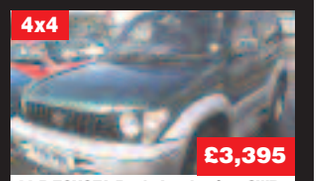

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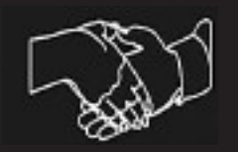

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04 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 3dr Quicksilver in silver ONLY 37K, FSH. Ltd EDITION, LOW INSURANCE model. A/c, alloys, PAS £4,995

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02 BMW 316ti Compact SE Automatic (Leather) in obsidian black met, stunning AUTO, full leather, a/c, climate, alloys £4,495

04 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2E 5dr in silver met, ONLY 54,000 miles FSH. Unmarked, LOW INSURANCE, cheap road tax. Power steering, windows £4,495

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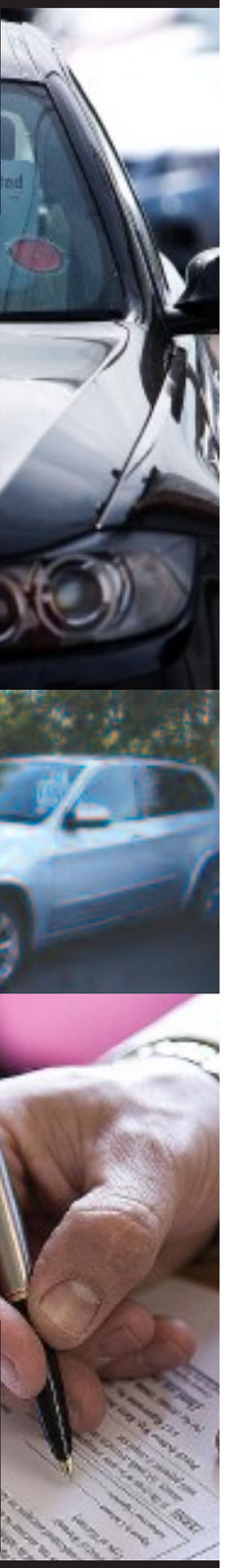
03 Vauxhall Agila 1.0 12v 5-dr in blue met, ONLY 39,000 miles. FSH. 5-dr, 1.0 low insurance £2,883

Y SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16v Chill 5-dr. Silver met, only 46k, low insurance, a/c £2,000

V FORD Puma 1.7 16v Sport in blue met, excellent value 1.7 Sport, a/c, alloys £1,995



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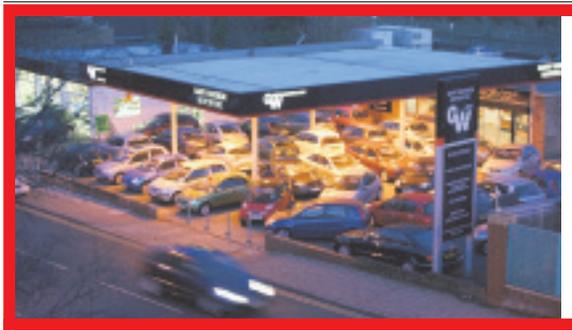

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52	**BMW 325 Ci Sport Automatic.** Met blue with beige leather, 75,000 miles, 18" alloys	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,995**
04	**TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium.** Silver with charcoal leather, 39,000 mls, a/c, s/r,1 owner	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,495**
52	**BMW 325 SE Auto.** In black with black leather trim, 38,000 miles, local car at	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,495**
54	**JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel Sport.** In met steel blue with charcoal half leather trim, 74,000 miles	**£6,995**
04	**LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8S 3-dr hardback.** In light met blue, only 18,000 miles	**£6,995**
03	**TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi T Sport.** In smoke silver, 74,000 miles, 1 owner, upgraded alloys	**£6,995**
03	**MINI 1.6 Auto.** In black with full red leather trim, fantastic looking example at	**£6,495**
53	**MAZDA RX8 (230)** in silver with black leather trim, fantastic value at	**£5,995**
52	**HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE Auto.** In silver with black leather trim, 60,000 miles	**£4,995**
51	**AUDI A4 2.0 SE Sportsline** in silver, 71,000 miles, superb example at	**£4,995**
Y	**PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0.** In silver, with black leather trim, low mileage local convertible	**£4,995**
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05	**FIESTA 1.4 TDCi Ghia 5-dr.** Black with black leather trim, 49,000 miles, diesel economy	**£5,695**
54	**RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilage Auto 5-dr.** In met grey with half leather tri, low mileage	**£5,495**
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05	**PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Quiksilver 3-dr.** 31,000 miles, sought-after limited edition model	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**
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55	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr.** In met black, 25,000 miles, very desirable	**£4,995**
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05	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi.** In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695**
05	**PEUGEOT 206 145 5-dr.** Black, 50,000 miles, a/c, cd, etc	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression Auto** in black, 1 owner, 31,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £200 TO £4,295**
54	**CITROEN C2 1.1LX 3-dr.** In met red with cd etc, local car on offer at	**£3,995**
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05	**ROVER 25 1.4 GLi 3-dr.** In smoke silver, 50,000 miles, leather trim, alloys, a/c	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £3,495**
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03	**FORD Ka 1.3i** in met blue, low mileage, low insurance	**£2,995**
51	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi Auto** in black, 69,000 miles with a/c, alloys, etc	**£2,995**
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02 JAGUAR 2.5 S-Type Auto. 80k, fsh, alloys, a/c, multi cd, nice spec model

99 JAGUAR XK8 4.0 Auto Coupe. 90k, fsh, alloys, a/c, cruise, e/leather, lady owner, awsome car

05 MINI Cooper S, facelift model. 1 owner, 50k, zenons, half leather, cd system, multi function wheel, rear spoiler, stunning

Y VW Golf 1.4 S. Lady owner, s/history, full electric pack, sunroof, superb economy, low tax & ins.

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56	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SX.** Just 9k, 1 owner + demo, a/c, alloys, cd player, plush trim, huge saving from new	£4495
54	**VOLVO S60 2.4 D5 Sport.** 60k, FSH, 1 owner, half leather, alloys, cruise, multi-disc, boot spoiler, super MPG, just	£6995
54	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique.** 1 owner, 46k, alloys, sports interior, a/con, cd player, fuel computer	£4495
54	**ROVER 25 SEi T Diesel.** 48k, a/con, alloys, cd, superb MPG, top spec	£3995
03	**KIA Sedona 2.9 CRDT 7 seater.** Leather, a/con, dvd player, privacy glass, good mpg, rare	£3995
03	**CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire.** 40k, 2 owners, fsh, a/c, cd system, jazzy trim, low tax & Ins, 40+mpg	£3995
03	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression.** 45k, lady owner, full e/pack, air con, CD system	£3295
03	**FORD Ka 1.3.** 60k, 2 owners, p/steering, low tax & ins, ideal 1st car at only	£2995
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52	**HONDA Accord 1.8 V-Tech Sport.** 80k, fsh, alloys, a/con, cd system, type R looks, Japanese reliability	£2995
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02	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji.** 1 owner, 50k, half leather, twin e/roofs, a/c, cd player, alloys, desirable at	£3495
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53	**HONDA Jazz 1.4 SE Sport Auto.** 40k, FSH, lady owner, air con, CD player, low tax & ins	£4995
51	**MERCEDES ML55 AMG Auto.** 80k, s/history, full leather, sat nav, cruise, xenons, chrome steps + bar	£8995
51	**HONDA Civic 1.4S.** 65k, FHSH, air con, cd system, full epack, group 4 ins, rare car	£2995
51	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6 GLX.** P/Steering, e/pack, upgrade alloys, a/c, cd system	£2695
51	**FORD Focus 1.4 LX 3-dr.** One owner, full e/pack, low tax & insurance, desirable at	£2695
51	**HONDA Accord 2.0 SE.** 78k, fsh, alloys, a/con, plush trim, cd sytem, super condition, ideal family car	£2795
51	**FORD Fiesta 1.3 Flight.** 72k, lady owner, p/steering, alloys, cd player, low ins, stunning	£1995
Y	**BMW 330 Ci SE Coupe Triptronic.** Only 67k, service history, 18" MV wheels, sports trim, in met silver	£5995
Y	**JAGUAR 2.0 V6 X-Type.** 90k, fsh, alloys, a/c, cd system, chrome pack, tremendous value	£2995
Y	**VW Golf 1.6 SE.** FSH, lady owner, a/con, cd system, full e/pack, low insurance group	£2995
Y	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Comfort 16v.** Lady owner, 50k, s/history, low tax + ins	£2695
Y	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi.** 90k, e/pack, cd system, alloys, sports trim, 47mpg, low ins	£2395
X	**BMW 318 CI Coupe.** Lady owner, e/pack, c/control, alloys, multi function s/wheel	£3995
X	**LEXUS IS 200.** 84k, FSH, alloys, e/roof, air con, multi-disc, 6-speed box, half leather, superb	£3995
X	**RENAULT Clio 2.0 Sport.** 80k, leather/alcantra trim, a/con, alloys, cd system, front fogs	£2995
X	**LAND ROVER 1.8 XEi 3-Dr.** Alloys, air con, sunroof, two tone leather, alloys, lovely example	£2995
X	**MGF 1.8 VVC Convertible.** Lady owner, 70k, alloys, CD system, full leather, wind break	£2995
W	**VW Polo 1.4 E Hatch.** Lady owner, p/steering, just 80k, ideal 1st car, viewing essential	£2495
W	**HONDA Civic 1.4S Hatch.** 90k, FSH, alloys, air con, sports interior, CD system, low tax & ins	£2395
W	**FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec.** 5-dr, 80k, alloys, a/con, e/windows, low tax & ins, ideal 1st car	£1795
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V	**HYUNDAI 2.0 SE Coupe.** 68k, service history, alloys, leather, a/con, e/roof, cd player, rare colour	£1995
T	**VOLVO C70 2.4 Auto.** Half leather, alloys, a/con, cd, hard to find at	£1995
T	**FORD Mondeo 2.0 LX Auto.** 75k, e/pack, nice car	£1395
S	**FORD Ka 1300.** 70k, pas, jazzy trim, lovely example, low tax & ins	£1695
R	**NISSAN Primera 2.0 SE.** Leather, a/c, alloys, e/pack, wood trim, long MOT	£995
N	**SAAB 93 S Convertible Auto.** leather, alloys, a/c, lady owner, nice example	£2495
H	**TOYOTA MR2 2.0 GT Auto.** Just 55k, Targa top roof, CD system, alloys, superb condition	£1795

06 FORD Mondeo 2.2 TDCi Titanium Estate. Fsh, a/c, alloys, suede/leather, multi cd, superb mpg.

52 VOLVO S60 2.4 Diesel D5 SE. FSH, full leather, alloys, multi-CD, multiple air bags, fantastic MPG.

02 FORD Focus 1.6 Chic. 3 door, 70k, s/history, alloys, full leather, a/c, cd system, rare car.

03 CITROEN Saxo VTR 1.6. 74k, superb example, low ins group.

X MERCEDES A140 Classic. 80k, lady owner, full e/pack, jazzy trim, low tax + ins.

03 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 SE V6 80k, fsh, alloys, cd system, full leather, chrome pack,

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GEM sport

BRIDGEND COLLEGE TAKE PRIZED ENGLISH SCALP IN FINE STYLE

READING COLLEGE 0
BRIDGEND COLLEGE 2

BRIDGEND College Football Academy have started their cup campaign in style.

Drawn away in the first round to one of the favourites, Reading College, Bridgend gave a performance that proved too good for an experienced and hard working Reading outfit.

Playing on a new 3G surface in the shadows of the Madejeski Stadium, the home of Reading Football club, Bridgend adapted to their plush surroundings and passed the ball with great confidence.

After dominating the opening proceedings, Lewis Murray scored the all important opening goal, after some intelligent and precise build up play 10 minutes into the first half. A move of more than 10 passes resulted in Kieran Lewis slipping a ball down Reading's left channel, and top scorer Lewis Murray delightfully curled the ball home.

Bridgend continued to dominate the midfield with Kieran Lewis, Kyle Owen and Shane Davies passing and linking up whenever possible.

Jamie Thomas and centre-half partner Ben Davies were solid at the back, allowing both full-backs to raid down the flanks. Reading finished the first half strongly, but were unable to breach a disciplined Welsh team.

The second half witnessed a change of tactics, with Bridgend hitting on the break. Wearing the blue and white hooped shirts of the Reading first team was not enough to dampen the confidence and flowing football of the Bridgend side.

Lewis Murray of Bridgend College.

Lee Owen came close to making it two and one flowing move resulted in a Tom Haley shot going agonisingly wide.

Both teams continued to work hard and zip the ball around the fast surface but eventually the game was put to bed, with striker Lee Owen finishing yet another counter-attack, side-footing an unselfish square ball from substitute Tom Haley.

"The football today was at times breathtaking with the pace, tempo and precision of passing," said an enthused director of football for Bridgend College, Jason Perry. The former Cardiff City captain is hoping for a long run in this prestigious cup.

Pumas caged – now Wales are set to run down Wallabies

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

WHILE the Wales camp rightly had cause for satisfaction at mission accomplished against Argentina, they also know that there is still much to be done in the final match of the autumn series against Australia on Saturday.

Yes, there can be no doubt that last weekend's 33-16 victory over notoriously difficult opponents that were rated above them in the world rugby rankings, was a notable achievement, but it is also true that this richly-talented Welsh team has yet to fire smoothly on all cylinders and realise its maximum potential.

First, though, the positives, and there are quite a few: the front five took on the formidable Pumas and matched them in the tight (with a little help, perhaps, from the Irish referee!) which then released the back row to contest the loose exchanges and thus free the vastly superior Welsh backs to create opportunities in attack.

For once, the lineout was not a weakness and with plentiful ball and territory gained in all phases, the home team were quickly in the ascendancy.

At the interval, it was 13-3 – all the home points coming from Stephen Jones, having one of his best all-round games for Wales, including a rare solo try after just eight minutes.

It seemed that only the Pumas' man-of-the-match skipper Lobbe stood between Wales and a landslide scoreline.

More satisfying still was the end of Wales' recent try famine – with three touchdowns, including two by the mercurial Shane Williams.

All in all, then, a well-deserved victory gained through a non-stop physical effort that had the Pumas almost out on their feet by the end, as Welsh fitness told on opponents who had been under the cosh from the opening whistle.

However, Warren Gatland and his coaching team also know that many of the frustrating weaknesses that hold Wales back from full expression of their undoubted qualities remain.

As already seen in the previous two autumn matches, the error count is still unacceptably high for a team striving to be in world rugby's top tier.

Consistency, control and precision continue to be the three elusive targets as this young Welsh squad look beyond the autumn 'friendlies' to encounters of a more meaningful kind in the Six Nations – and, ultimately, the World Cup.

Unsurprisingly, given that Wales are determined to persevere with a high tempo approach, despite rugby's current obsession with aerial ping-pong, the quicksilver Dwayne Peel has been recalled at half back.

With this in mind, Gatland has also kept faith with young Jonathan Davies at inside centre, as a foil to Jamie Roberts, in preference to fit again Tom Shanklin.

It is a team that should take the field brimming with confidence against an Australian side that has not exactly distinguished itself so far on tour.

WALES TEAM: James Hook, Leigh Halfpenny, Jamie Roberts, Jonathan Davies, Shane Williams, Stephen Jones, Dwayne Peel; Gethin Jenkins, Matthew Rees, Paul James, Alun-Wyn Jones, Luke Charteris, Andy Powell, Martyn Williams, Ryan Jones (captain).

***Replacements*: Huw Bennett, Duncan Jones, Jonathan Thomas, Dan Lydiate, Martin Roberts, Andrew Bishop, Tom James.**

Porthcawl Reserves go top of table after emphatic win

PORTHCAWL Town Reserves returned to the top of the table after a fine win over AFC Porth at Locks Lane.

The Seasiders settled quickly and looked more comfortable in the blustery and wet conditions.

With Porthcawl firmly in the ascendancy, an opener seemed imminent. Centre-back Christian Bold emerged with possession from the centre circle and drove forward before unleashing a memorable 35-yard effort with the inside of his left foot which located the outstretched goalkeeper's top right hand corner.

After 35 minutes, Porthcawl doubled their advantage with a slick, attacking move which cut the visitors apart. Deep in his own half, Tom Warren fed Mark Pickering on the right flank, who shifted the ball to Lee Giles and then onto bustling brother Matt, whose inviting ball into the box was neatly tucked away by winger Rob Phillips.

The second half was conducted in similar fashion as Porthcawl continued to show bite and operate as a cohesive force.

The visitors played their part and while looking a capable attacking force, were comfortably thwarted by an efficient Porthcawl defence.

After the hour mark, the Seasiders edged further in front when lively winger Mark Pickering was played in by hard-running midfielder Olly Warren. Porth's goalkeeper intercepted the through ball but his clearance was promptly recovered by Pickering who confidently side-footed home from the edge of the 18-yard-box.

Striker Dan Edwards, who operated effectively in the pocket, made way for debutant Lewis Pearce, as Porthcawl maintained their impressive work rate for the remaining quarter of an hour.

The visitors grabbed a fortunate consolation as their keeper's long punt took a high bounce off the wet pitch and looped over his advancing opposite number Richard Gorrett for Porth's striker to tap home.

MP

Flint celebrates Hereford victory

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

KENFIG HILL racehorse trainer John Flint landed the Lindley Catering Novice's Handicap Chase at Hereford last Thursday with his nine-year-old bay gelding *Star Galaxy* who came home nine lengths ahead of *Bid Art*.

Star Galaxy, a 9-2 chance, was ridden by Donal Devereux,and is a former inmate of Dai Burchell's Ebbw Vale yard.

A bargain buy at just £1,200 at the Ascot December Sales, winning connections picked up £3,383 and further success looks on the cards even though the horse has been described as "none too genuine"' by the Chasers & Hurdlers 208/09 annual.

Andrew Bloxhall, who trains at Lisvane near Cardiff, took the Bet365.Com Novices' Handicap Hurdle with *Manjam* who, partnered by Giles Hawkins, got home by half-a-length from *Lansdowne Princess*, ridden by Paddy Brennan.

B Attack stay ahead of pack

TEAM G belied their lowly position in the Bridgend Sunday six-a-side Leisure Leagues table, following a comfortable 4-1 victory over Croissaints, as 'keeper Rhodri Owen sailed a tight ship between the sticks.

B Attack remain top of the pile as Chris Abbott starred in their 3-0 success over AC Brackla, while Racing Inter saw off Pen y Bont Pirates via the same scoreline, thanks to the efforts of Nicky Phillips.

Aled Rumph took the plaudits for Dunraven in a narrow 1-0 win against Hangover Heroes, while Day Sleepers shared a goalless draw with AFC One More Pie as Mike Groffitt starred for the latter.

Anyone who wants to join the Six-a-side leagues in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340.

Pupils design their own rugby shirts at St Clare's

The team in their new kit.

FOLLOWING news that St Clare's language teacher Rachel Smart was announced as Wales' most stylish woman by Grazia magazine, pupils had the chance recently to try out new rugby shirts designed by their own classmates.

They took delivery of a consignment of 25 rugby jerseys, designed by Grace Collier and Sam Mahoney, who won a school competition to design the new team strip.

The jerseys were paid for by the Friends of St Clare's with help from the Ospreys Kit Initiative.

The kit, which features the new St Clare's logo and the names of its two designers, has already received a muddy introduction to the rugby field and pupils are enjoying emulating their Ospreys and Wales heroes on the pitch.

Head of St Clare's, Cath Barnard, commented: "These new jerseys look great and it is particularly pleasing to see our pupils out on the field knowing that the kit they are wearing was designed by our own pupils!"